■ 2bU! / C1

You forget Dakota Fanning is only 11 when you see her act

■ News / A2

S&P: GMA apology calms market but ...

■ Across / A17

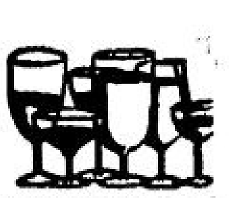
11 killed, 23 hurt in clan war in Zamboanga

■ Metro / A21

Text message links woman to husband's murder

■ Business / B3

Cocktales: UP clears 'suicide' committee of any impropriety



Cabinet serenades GMA, 'If We Hold On Together'

SINTUNADO KASI KAYA NAKAKAIYAK

By Christine O. Avendaño

SHORTLY after President Macapagal-Arroyo apologized on national TV, Cabinet members serenaded her with "If We Hold On

CABINET/ A4

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BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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GMA followed advice of 11 Cabinet members

By Blanche S. Rivera

MALACAÑANG had made a full assessment of all possible legal and national security implications by the time President Macapagal-Arroyo appeared on television Monday night to make a public confession about the controversial "GMA-Garci" tape, Environment Secretary

GMA / A6

'TOO LITTLE, TOO LATE'

GMA urged to force son, in-law to quit

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., Christine O. Avendaño and Juliet Labog-Javellana

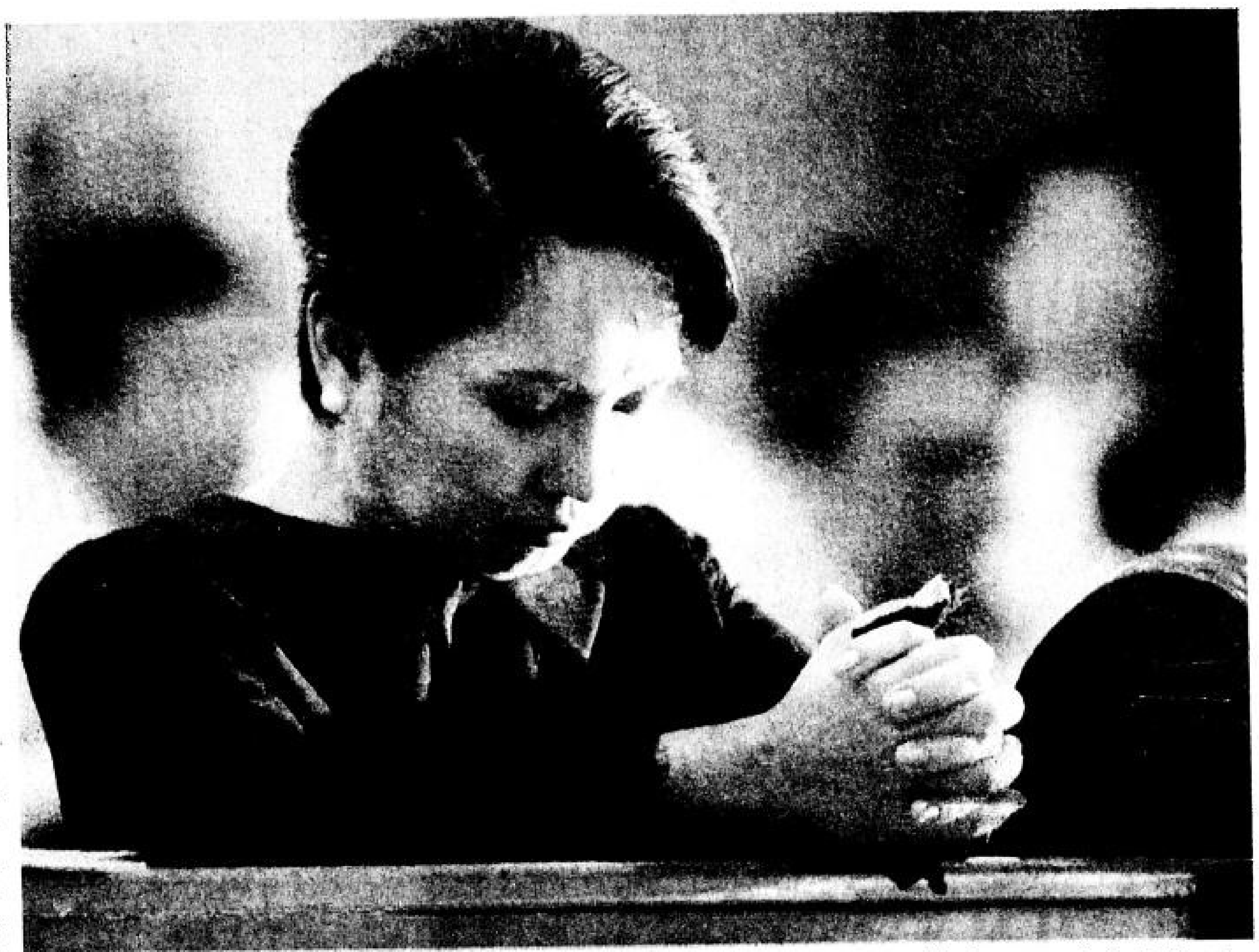
GIVE President Macapagal-Arroyo another chance, a six-month probationary period, a businessman and a legislator urged the public a day after she admitted to talking to an election official while the votes for the 2004 presidential election were still being canvassed.

"We'll just have to sit and wait because how she will perform in the next six months will determine whether the public will forgive her," Raul T. Concepcion, chair and CEO of Concepcion Industries, said yesterday.

During the period, Ms Arroyo should pursue "drastic and dramatic" reforms as her penance for her lapse in judgment, Concepcion said.

He said the reforms could take the form of catching more big fish in her drive against corruption, tax evasion and smuggling, and of forcing the President's son and brother-in-law to resign from

GMA URGED/ A4



WHO'S sorry now? Her body language appears to be truly contrite even as President Macapagal-Arroyo is in deep prayer during the funeral rites at the Manila Cathedral on Tuesday honoring the "liberator of the people" and the man who helped her ascend to power. EDWIN BACASMAS

Groups clamor for President's resignation

IT WAS a case of too little, too late.

President Macapagal-Arroyo's confession on Monday night that it was she who was talking with an election official in wiretapped phone conversations suggesting fraud in the 2004 polls has failed to result in her expressed wish that the controversy be ended to allow her to "move on with the business of governing."

The clamor by various sectors for her resignation echoed even louder yesterday, and militant groups announced plans for a national day of protest on June 30.

Bro. Eddie Villanueva, leader of Bangon Pilipinas and one of the presidential contenders in 2004, said Ms Arroyo should redeem herself and the presidency.

"An apology will not [blot out] her sins. The credibility and trust that are now lost from the presidency should be restored through her resignation," Villanueva said by phone.

In a statement issued later in the day, Villanueva said Ms Arroyo should show genuine repentance by making the "ultimate sacrifice." He said stepping down was the only way for her to correct her "mortal sin."

"It is now time for her to give back to the people the very office she has usurped," Villanueva

TOO LITTLE/ A4

Bishops vow to carry on Sin's fight for truth, integrity

By Christian V. Esguerra and Leila B. Salaverria

JAIME Cardinal Sin was buried yesterday in rites befitting a prince of the Church and hero of Edsa, and attended by two women he helped catapult to power.

The funeral was marked by a Church pledge to pursue Sin's fight against "immoral governance."

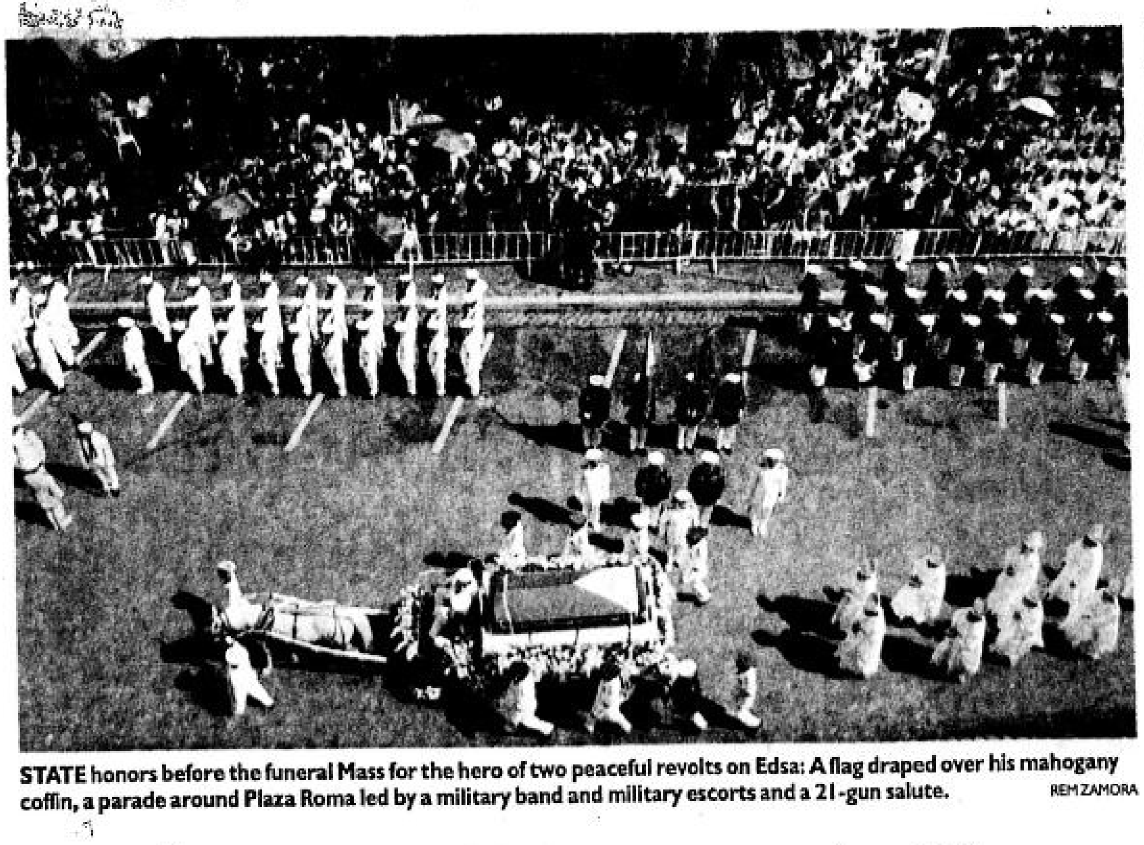
Sin, who helped topple two presidents, received state honors, with a Philippine flag draping his casket and guns thundering with a 21-gun salute. He was interred in a crypt beneath the altar of the Manila Cathedral.

The estimated 10,000 mourners were led by President Macapagal-Arroyo and former President Corazon Aquino, who vaulted to the presidency after popular revolts backed by Sin ousted a dictator and another leader accused of corruption.

A controversial prelate who thrived in times of political conflict, Sin was buried while the country was being rent by political divisions caused by wiretapped phone conversations about electoral fraud allegedly involving Ms Arroyo.

Pledges by bishops in their eulogies to carry on Sin's fight for "truth and integrity" and against official misdeeds were seen by

BISHOPS/ A8



STATE honors before the funeral Mass for the hero of two peaceful revolts on Edsa: A flag draped over his mahogany coffin, a parade around Plaza Roma led by a military band and military escorts and a 21-gun salute. REM ZAMORA

BISHOPS pay their last respects to one of their own who had made history beyond the sanctuary of the Catholic Church. REM ZAMORA

GMA warns vs surging oil prices

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday warned against the serious threat posed by soaring world oil prices which could take a heavy toll on the country's economic stability and growth as she appealed to the public to immediately conserve energy.

"As of today, the price of crude oil in the world market hit US$61 per barrel, coming from less than US$30 per barrel 18 months ago. Any further increases will be more detrimental not just to the growth of our economy, but to the rest of the world," the President said in a statement.

Oil prices hit an intra-day high of US$60.95 the previous day, the highest level since it was first traded in 1983, due to persistent

GMA WARNS/ A6

Battle over tape moves to House today

By Michael Lim Ubac and Philip C. Tubeza

THE BATTLE over the "Hello Garci" tape moves to Congress today, with opposition lawmakers expected to reject attempts by administration allies to call off the joint House investigation into the wiretap following President Macapagal-Arroyo's confession she was the female speaker in the recording.

Opposition representatives are demanding that Ms Arroyo waive her immunities as President and allow the playing of her wiretapped telephone conversations.

Legal expert Pacifico Agabin and other deans of law schools have been invited to attend the hearing of five House committees today to shed light on the legality of playing the controversial audio tape in Congress.

But House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles and Representatives Antonio Cuenco and Eduardo Gullas said the inquiry should now be concluded. They said the reasons for which the inquiry was convened had already been satisfied following Ms Arroyo's confession Monday.

"After almost two weeks of carrying out the investigation, there are now ample information and bases to introduce vital amendments to the Anti-Wiretapping Law," said Cuenco.

Opposition lawmakers, however, disagreed.

"Who were the people talking in the tape? What did they talk about? Why did First Gentleman Mike Arroyo meddle in (the canvassing)? Why did she call Garcillano who was in charge over Regions 3 and 4 to inquire about Mindanao votes? And why were

BATTLE / A6

Pro-GMA solon endorses impeachment complaint

By Philip C. Tubeza

CONFIRMING the worst fears of the opposition, an administration lawmaker yesterday endorsed the impeachment complaint filed by lawyer Oliver Lozano against President Macapagal-Arroyo, thus barring a similar case being filed against her for a year.

Under the law, no other impeachment complaint can be filed against a President for a year once a complaint had been endorsed by a member of the House of Representatives.

Alagad party-list Rep. Rodante Marcoleta, a member of the influential Christian sect

PRO-GMA/ A6

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Luzon, Visayas and Northern Mindanao will experience cloudy skies, with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms becoming widespread over Western Luzon. The rest of Mindanao will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

COMPILED BY CYRIL L BONABENTE, PDI RESEARCH/06/29/05 SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Partly Cloudy

S&P: GMA woes to haunt RP

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo's apology on public television over an election faux pas has calmed financial markets, but uncertainties remain, ratings firm Standard and Poor's said yesterday.

The President's confession that she called an election official during the 2004 polls was "unlikely to have implications that would affect the sovereign ratings of the country," S&P said in statement.

But over the longer term, the possibility of a President weakened by diminished public support and an obstructive legislature could "heighten political instability," said S&P analyst Agost Benard.

"That might impede the administration's efforts to put public finances on an even keel. Such an environment would prolong the Philippines' vulnerability to adverse developments, given its high public and external debt," Benard noted.

Ms Arroyo's confession did not constitute legal wrongdoing, the agency noted.

Her critics have also failed to turn up credible evidence to support allegations of corruption, it said.

But it said that even if the scandals blow over, "prospects for the President's remaining term of five years are less certain."

Specter of uncertainty

Continued attacks against her character, including calls for her to be impeached, "raise the specter of ongoing political uncertainty," the ratings agency said.

"This implies further distraction for the legislature and President from their reform tasks, and the increased likelihood of an ineffectual presidency for the remaining five years," Benard said.

Such an environment would benefit vested interests, slow down reforms, and sustain political uncertainty, which has kept foreign investment away for the better part of the past decade, S&P said.

S&P downgraded the Philippines by one notch in January to three notches below investment grade with a stable outlook, citing delays in crucial fiscal reforms.

Moody's Investors Service delivered a more severe cut in February, to four notches below investment grade with a stable outlook, saying there were risks from the country's large debts.

In early June, S&P said it was retaining its BB-minus and stable outlook on the Philippines despite the passage of key reform measures.

Fitch Ratings raised its sovereign outlook on the Philippines to stable from negative, saying the recent reforms were likely to cut chronic budget deficits.

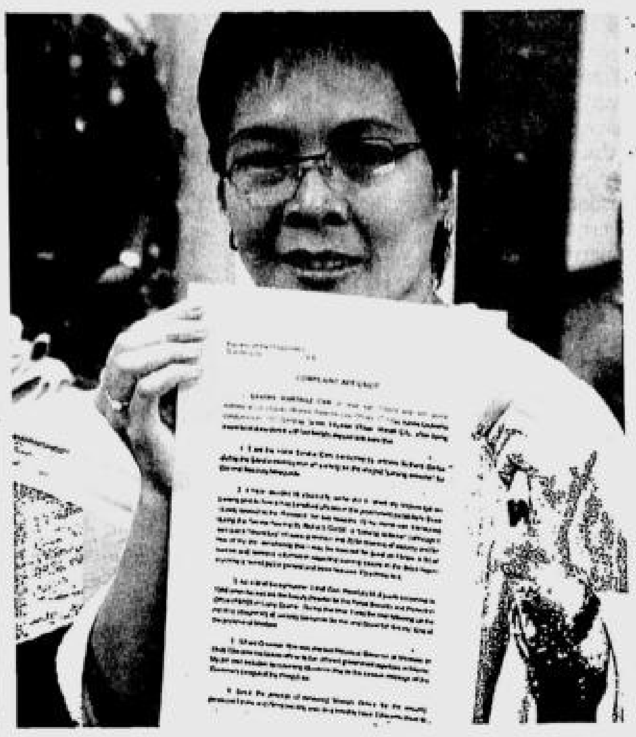
Agencies like the S&P, Fitch and Moody's issue credit ratings which constitute the creditworthiness of a country.

The President recently signed a critical reform measure that expanded the value-added tax by ending exemptions on sectors, including power and fuel.

The government, battling rampant corruption and tax evasion, hopes the broader VAT will be instrumental in cutting its projected P180-billion budget deficit this year.

But opposition allegations that Ms Arroyo cheated in last year's elections and separate allegations that her family members have taken payoffs from illegal gambling have drowned out economic issues in recent weeks.

AFP, Reuters



CAM: Taking "jueteng" battle to Ombudsman

Cam files case vs Mikey, Iggy

By Nelson F. Flores

ADMITTED "jueteng" bagwoman Sandra Cam yesterday filed charges of violation of Republic Act No. 9287 against Pampanga Rep. Juan Miguel Arroyo, Negros Occidental Rep. Ignacio Arroyo and retired police Chief Supt. Restituto Mosqueda in the Office of the Ombudsman. RA 9287 is the act increasing the penalties for illegal numbers games.

In a nine-page complaint, Cam, accompanied by her lawyer Frank Chavez, said the Arroyos and Mosqueda were "protectors" of "coddlers" of jueteng, an illegal numbers game.

She said she began collecting protection money from jueteng lords in Bicol in 2004 for Mosqueda, then the police regional director, raising P3.5 million each month.

Of this, she said, P1 million was for "Mikey" Arroyo, President Macapagal-Arroyo's son, and "Iggy" Arroyo, her brother-in-law.

Cam said Mosqueda asked her to prepare the money in P500 bills, which the police official then took to the House of Representatives for the two congressmen.

On one occasion, she said, she herself went to Congress when Mosqueda couldn't make it to hand over the money to the Arroyos.

The Arroyos and Mosqueda have denied Cam's allegations.

Cam said she worked for Mosqueda until March 2005. She said she decided to come out and tell what she knew after an admitted jueteng collector named Richard Garcia dropped her name at a Senate hearing on the illegal numbers game and this made her fear for her life.

"I may be silenced for good as I know a lot of serious and sensitive information regarding jueteng payola in the Bicol region...," Cam said in her complaint.

Mikey Arroyo's lawyer welcomed the filing of charges by Cam, saying "this was a refreshing change from her earlier hurling of unsubstantiated charges against the Arroyos in the media and the Senate jueteng hearings."

In a statement, Maduramente said she would have to look very carefully at Cam's complaint against the Arroyos to spot glaring inconsistencies similar to those between Cam's testimony in the Senate hearings and the interviews she gave outside.

"It is a refreshing change that Ms Cam has chosen this time to make her accusations in a legal forum. She has apparently been heartened by the caliber of her esteemed counsel, but she will soon find out that the rules of court and evidence are powerful tools that will strip away the layer upon layer of lies that she made versus my client," Maduramente said.

Comelec to summon Garcillano

By Jerome Aning

THE COMMISSION on Elections announced yesterday it would summon Virgilio Garcillano to appear in an investigation in connection with President Macapagal-Arroyo's disclosure of impropriety in the last election.

In an en banc resolution, the Comelec said its investigation would center on the wiretapped telephone conversations between Ms Arroyo and an election official, noting that they had put into question the integrity of the 2004 balloting and its personnel.

Ms Arroyo did not name the election official she talked with. The opposition has said the male voice in the wiretap was Garcillano's. Garcillano, whose whereabouts are not known, has denied this.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said that by not naming the official, Ms Arroyo has placed the entire Comelec under a "radioactive cloud of doubt."

He said "that doubt is not only on Garcillano, who is on the spot, but on everybody" from Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos down to the last commissioner.

Pimentel said that in light of the President's admission that it was her voice in the wiretap, it would be "foolhardy" for Abalos and other Comelec members "to disclaim any knowledge, participation and responsibility for the election irregularities that were engineered by Mr. Garcillano."

He also said it was impossible for Abalos and Commissioner Manuel Barcelona, who were assigned to supervise the elections in Mindanao, not to know that vote-shaving and vote-padding operations were being carried out by Garcillano. Ms Arroyo mentioned her vote lead in Mindanao in the audio recording.

Effective revamp

Pimentel said scandals like this should prompt a top-to-bottom revamp of the Comelec, but added he did not expect this to happen under Ms Arroyo's presidency.

Pimentel said that after Ms Arroyo finally admitted it was her on the tape, Garcillano should now come out of hiding and retract his denial.

Former Comelec Chair Christian Monsod said that with two commissioners retiring and the expected non-reappointment of Garcillano, the poll body would be effectively revamped.

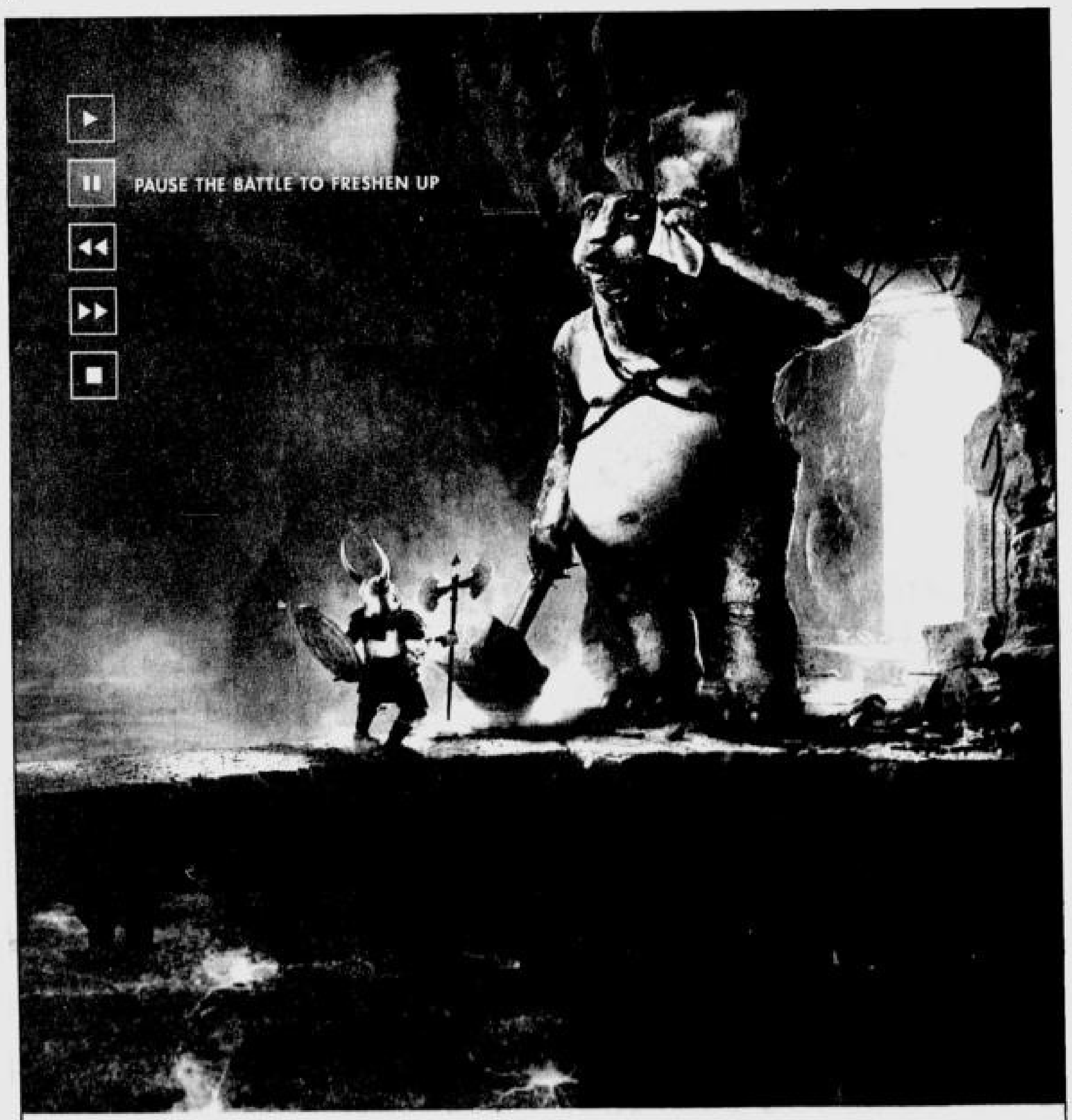
Monsod seemed to approve of two commissioners who would remain—longtime Comelec official Resureccion Borra and Florentino Tuazon. They "appear to be OK," he said.

"The President didn't address the [need to strengthen] democratic institutions," Monsod said. "She didn't start the damage done to the Comelec but she contributed to it. She should start repairing [its reputation]," he added.

Monsod said Ms Arroyo should reorganize the Comelec. "She should let Abalos go. He's part of the problem," Monsod said.

Senate President Franklin Drilon also said Ms Arroyo should not reappoint Garcillano. He stressed the need for the appointment of credible officials to the Comelec.

"The Aug. 8 elections in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao should serve as a crucial test whether the Comelec can stand up to the required standards of strict impartiality and fairness," Drilon said. ***With reports from Juliet Labog-Javellana and Norman Bordadora***



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Tape still useless as evidence – Gonzalez

By Armand N. Nocum

JUSTICE Secretary Raul Gonzalez said the political opposition cannot use President Macapagal-Arroyo's public admission to being the one heard on tape talking with an election commissioner as a basis for an impeachment complaint.

"The opposition can claim any kind of evidence to justify what action they would do, there's no impeachable offense there. The President said it was a lapse in judgment, what the Constitution speaks is of willful violation," he said.

Gonzalez said the President's supposed offense was "not a high crime."

He said the attention given the issue has been disproportionate because it involved the President, not just any candidate running for reelection.

"I'm saying that there's no crime committed, but because she's the President, it's being magnified," he said.

According to Gonzalez, the content of the call did not even constitute a crime, being a private conversation.

"The question is, was it a public or private conversation? Even if you are the king, you can talk privately," he said.

Loren can't peg protest on GMA confession—Noli

By Cynthia D. Balana

VICE President Noli de Castro yesterday asked former Sen. Loren Legarda to stop bringing new evidence of alleged election fraud to the media and instead focus on her election protest against him before the Presidential Electoral Tribunal.

De Castro also shrugged off Legarda's claim that President Macapagal-Arroyo's admission of impropriety when she called an elections official the 2004 elections bolstered the former senator's claim that she was cheated.

"*Iba naman boto ni Presidente sa boto ko. Magkaiba naman figures eh so paano niya sasabihing nadaya nga siya* (The votes for the president are different from my votes. Even the figures are different. Why should she say she was cheated)?" De Castro told the INQUIRER in an interview.

"*Magbayad na siya sa PET para maumpisahan na ang recount at matapos na iyan. Hindi madedesisyunan ng media iyan. Nagmamadali na siya eh di magbayad na siya* (She should pay PET so they could start the recount. Media cannot decide on that. If she's in a hurry, she should pay the PET)," he said.

Legarda said she would make a P5-million initial deposit to the PET tomorrow (Thursday) to prompt the PET to order the start of the recount of votes in affected areas.

In her protest, Legarda identified six pilot provinces where election returns would show that she was massively cheated in the electoral canvassing. These were in Lanao del Sur, Lanao del Norte, Surigao del Sur, Cebu, Pampanga and Maguindanao.

She presented a summary of discrepancies noted on the Certificates of Canvass (COC) and compared them with the Statement of Votes (SOV) by precincts and election returns.

Sandigan junks gov't bid on 20% of SMC shares

By Nelson F. Flores

THE SANDIGANBAYAN on Monday dismissed the government's motion for reconsideration of the antigraft court's 2003 decision lifting the sequestration order on the disputed 20-percent shares of businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco in food and beverage giant San Miguel Corp.

In a 10-page decision penned by Justice Diosdado Peralta, the Sandiganbayan said the government's contention in the motion was unmeritorious. It noted that invalidating a writ of sequestration and questions involving ownership were two different things.

"The issue as to the non-validity of the writs and the issues as to the legitimate ownership of the questioned shares of stocks are not co-dependent," the court said.

The government, in its motion for reconsideration, said the Sandiganbayan's October 2003 ruling was "premature" and "misplaced," insisting that Cojuangco and his co-defendants had admitted on several occasions to using coconut levy funds to acquire SMC and even UCPB (United Coconut Planters Bank) shares.

The Sandiganbayan ruling paves the way for Cojuangco to sell his SMC shares, provided he complies with the "conditions" set by the antigraft court's First Division, including its [the shares] being subject to the outcome of a pending ownership issue.

The court reiterated that since the ownership issue had remained pending for the last 18 years and since the Presidential Commission on Good Government was still laying claim to the shares, "annotations" should be made in SMC's "relevant corporate books."

The Sandiganbayan in October 2003 lifted the sequestration order on Cojuangco's SMC shares due to "fatal defects" after its justices discovered that eight of the writs were issued by only one PCGG commissioner, while another one did not have factual basis.

"A writ bearing only one signature is an obvious transgression of PCGG rules. The two-commissioner rule is obviously intended to assure a collegial determination of such fact," the Sandigabayan said.

Cojuangco originally held 47 percent of SMC but the Supreme Court ruled that 27 percent belonged to the coconut farmers from whom the coconut levy was collected since the time of President Ferdinand Marcos.

Ownership of the remaining 20 percent is still being contested by the PCGG.

Pinoys No. 3 among world's bookworms

By Alcuin Papa

WHO says Filipinos don't read anymore?

Filipinos came in third as the world's biggest bookworms after Indians and Chinese, according to a recent international survey.

The NOP World Culture Score index also said Filipinos ranked second in terms of the most number of hours spent in front of the television set per day. Thais ranked number one.

The NOP World Culture Score index surveyed 30,000 consumers aged over 13 in 30 countries from December 2004 to February 2005.

The survey said Filipinos beat the Americans, the British, Russians and Japanese by reading books, newspapers and magazines at an average of 7.6 hours a week.

Indians are the world's biggest bookworms, reading an average of 10.7 hours a week, and the Chinese second with eight hours a week.

In fact, Indians read almost twice as many hours as Americans, who came in 23rd in the list with 5.7 hours. Also, Britons ranked 26th in the survey with 5.3 hours spent in reading. Japanese and Koreans were even lower, at 4.1 and 3.1 hours, respectively.

Analysts from NOP said self-help and inspirational reading could explain India's high figures.

R Sriram, chief executive officer of Crosswords Bookstores, a chain of 26 book shops in India, told the BBC that Indians were extremely entrepreneurial and reading "is a fundamental part of their being."

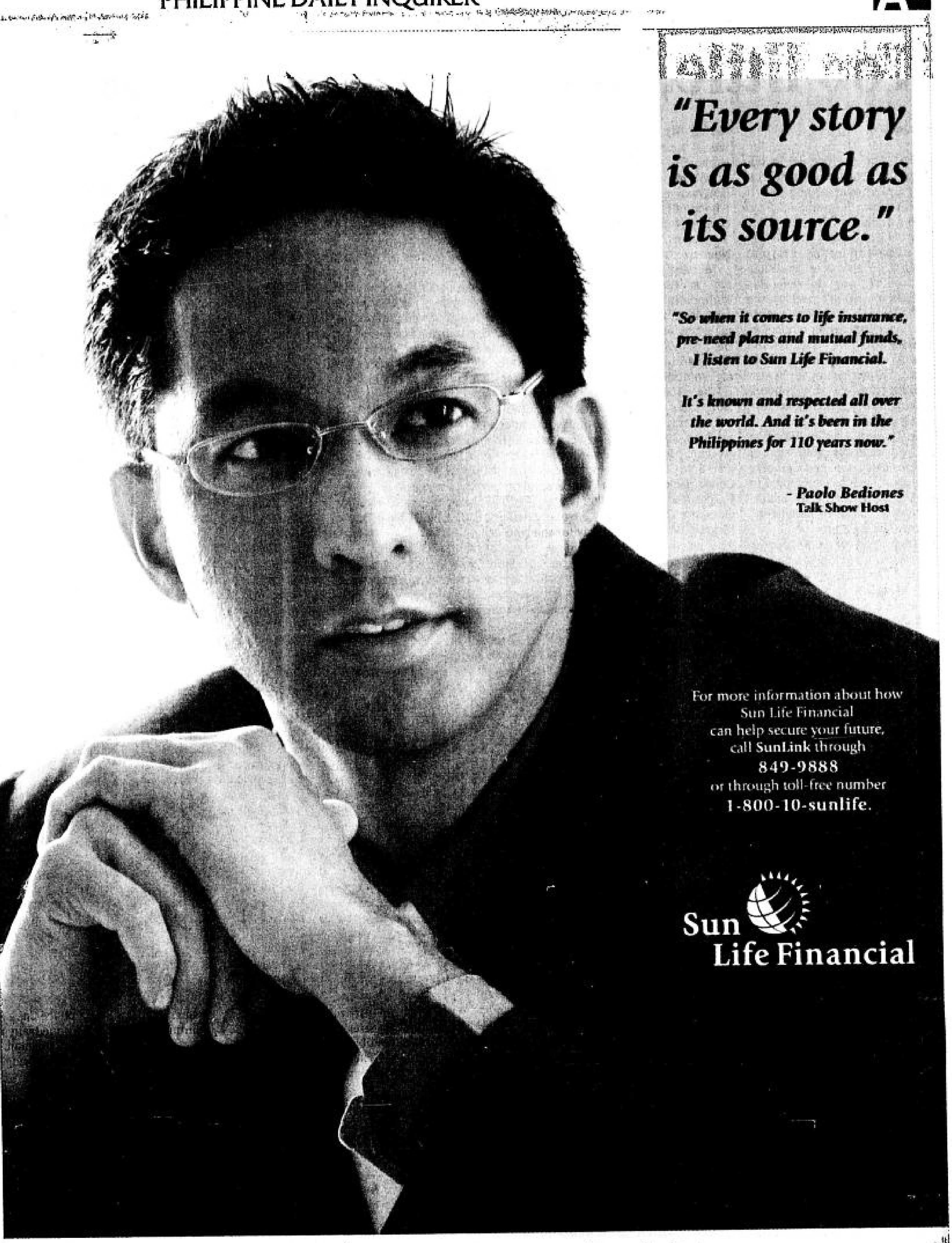
"They place a great deal of emphasis on reading. That's the reason why they do well in education and universities abroad," he told the BBC News website. "People educate themselves and deal with change throughout their lives. And the way to do that is to update themselves with books."

On the other hand, time spent on reading meant fewer hours in front of the TV set and listening to the radio as Indians came fourth to the last in both.

But curiously, Filipinos came in second as the world's biggest TV watchers, spending an average of 21 hours per week after Thais, who admitted watching TV at an average of 22.4 hours per week.

Taiwanese devoted the most time surfing the Internet outside their work, spending 12.6 hours a day in front of the computer. Filipinos spent an average of 9.8 hours.

According to its website, NOP World is "a top-ten market research power, uniting some of the most renowned US and European research firms into a single global organization." It also describes itself as "a leading supplier of syndicated and custom research."



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'Too little, too late'

From page A1

added. "Public office is a public trust. The people no longer trust her, so she should relent."

Elsewhere, former Sen. Raul Roco, standard-bearer of the Aksyon Demokratiko in 2004, renewed his call for Ms Arroyo to resign to pave the way for a snap election: *"Huwag linlangin ang taong-bayan* (Don't deceive the people). [You may say] sorry, [but] the people will not just forget what you have done. And the country will further plunge [into chaos]. We are looking for honest leaders. If they will again proceed by lying, we will never achieve honesty among our leaders."

Redemptorist priest Fr. Ben Moraleda said the confession of the President, a devout Catholic, would not have been accepted in Catholic rites because she admitted only a "lapse in judgment," not committing a sin.

"What kind of confession is that? She did not admit a wrongdoing… [To confess] is to tell all and wait for penance," said Moraleda, convenor of the Church-based urban poor ministry Kaalagad.

"If I were her priest, I would not accept that," he said, adding that Ms Arroyo's penance should be to step down and face the consequence of lying and cheating.

Moraleda also shrugged off former President Corazon Aqunio's call for the people to resort to prayer amid the nation's troubles.

"I believe in prayer, but prayer should not be a substitute for justice; it should not be a hiding place for criminals. Prayers are supposed to make us honest," he said.

United front

Some 30 militant groups led by the Freedom from Debt Coalition (FDC) and Sanlakas said the President could "move on by herself" with her reforms and plans.

"We're not going to join her … She wasted her admission [on the tape]. Nobody's going to support her anyway," Sanlakas president Wilson Fortaleza said at a forum.

He said the increased value-added tax, the 54-centavo increase in power rates, and the expected P3 rise in fuel prices would never gain the people's support.

"We are establishing a united progressive front of all groups who are fighting for the political, economic and social demands of the masses," FDC chair Ana Maria Nemenzo said.

Militant groups will meet today at the University of the Philippines' Bahay ng Alumni to forge an alliance with other organizations pushing for the end of the Arroyo administration and the establishment of a transitional revolutionary government.

The groups said they would hold mass actions, including a noise barrage, starting at 4:30 p.m. on June 30 at 13 points in and around Metro Manila—Quiapo and SM Centerpoint in Manila; Cubao, Timog Circle, SM Fairview, Philcoa and Welcome Rotonda in Quezon City; Ayala Avenue, Makati; Monumento, Caloocan; Alabang, Muntinlupa; Sucat, Parañaque; Bicutan, Taguig; Cainta Junction, Rizal, and the Malinta and Tungko exits in Bulacan.

3 issues

Roco said the President knew fully well that she qould resign at any time.

"It's clear that there was cheating. She should be removed from office. She can't say, 'I didn't mean it,'" he said.

"There are three issues here," Roco added. "Did she cheat, and later admitted it? Yes. Is it illegal to resign? Of course not because resignation is constitutional. If you want, it can be done. The third is impeachment."

Roco said the President should be "truthful to the people," and make her case before the Ombudsman and the Senate.

He said the President should be issued a subpoena, but stressed that the most viable option for her was to hold a snap election so the people could decide her fate.

"She can run again. If the people still want her, she's still the President," he said.

Melodrama

"Running priest" Fr. Robert Reyes said Ms Arroyo's confession was incomplete because she did not reveal all her sins, as the sacrament requires.

He said Ms Arroyo's televised address was a "perfect melodrama" that sounded "rehearsed and contrived."

"It's not enough to say sorry if you did not confess all of your sins. Then, assuming you have confessed all your sins, there has to be penance," Reyes told reporters after attending the burial of Jaime Cardinal Sin at the Manila Cathedral.

He said one of the things the President failed to talk about was how many times she spoke with the election official whom she did not name.

He also said it was the President who had levied on herself the penalty of working harder to improve her performance.

"That's not penance. Penance will hurt. It will hurt the penitent and it has something to do with the sin committed," he said.

Asked what penance he would have given Ms Arroyo, Reyes said it would be organizing a process of transition to a better government.

Asked if he wanted the President to resign, he replied in the negative. He said he did not believe in a snap election because the Commission on Elections and the National Citizens Movement for Free Elections had "no credibility."

'This should end'

Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, chair of the United Opposition (UNO), said the only thing to be done after the President's confession was for her to step down.

"Why do we have to prolong this? This should end. I am sorry but because of this experience, she must resign. UNO still believes, after her admission, that she should step down," he said at a press briefing.

"She was in conspiracy with others for all the fraud committed," said Binay, a lawyer. "This is not just a simple case of being anxious [about safeguarding her votes]. If she was, she should have just asked, 'How are things going?'"

Binay said the issue was "not a lapse in judgment but a criminal liability."

GLORIA
MANLOLOKO!
GLORIA
MANLOLOKO!
GLORIA
MANLOLOKO!

NOSING around at a rally along Tomas Morato Avenue in Quezon City, members of the militant group Akbayan hold up President Arroyo as the long-lying Pinnochio. JOAN BONDOC

He added: "No amount of apology can erase her criminal liability … As what I usually heard from my boss, forgiveness can't be given without retribution."

Binay was referring to then President Corazon Aquino, who made such a remark in reference to the strongman Ferdinand Marcos.

To Ms Arroyo's claim that the election's outcome had "already been predicted by every major public opinion poll and adjudged free, fair and decisive," Binay said in retort: "Who did opinion polls say won in Metro Manila? It was FPJ (Fernando Poe Jr.)."

1 M votes

In the wiretapped conversation between Ms Arroyo and the election official, she was heard asking the man on the line: "So will I still lead one million overall?"

"It's quite unbelievable that she was able to correctly predict the number of votes by which she would lead. But it would be so easy to say that it was just an accident that she was saying one million in the phone conversation, and indeed she led by a million votes over FPJ," Binay said.

"Her admission brings us one step closer to the truth. But it did not end there. She lied again by saying she won the election," he said.

Asked what options the opposition was pondering in view of the fact that Ms Arroyo had showed intent at staying at her post, Binay said: "Let's just see what would happen in the coming days."

UNO "can forgive" the President, but it still wants her out of Malacañang, said San Juan Mayor JV Ejercito, a son of deposed President Joseph Estrada.

"Her statement confirmed our belief that the 2004 election was marred by fraud," Ejercito said in a phone interview.

Former Sen. Francisco Tatad pointed out that the President did not reveal her real sins, which were, he said, stealing the 2004 election, wasting government money, and the kidnapping and threats in Mindanao.

From his rest house in Tanay, Rizal, where he is detained on charges of plunder, ex-President Estrada also called on Ms Arroyo to resign.

"How can she continue leading when she no longer enjoys the trust of the people?" he said.

'Confessed felon'

Lawyer Frank Chavez said the President "is now a confessed felon who can be ousted from office if she refuses to resign."

Chavez, a former solicitor general, said that by her admission, Ms Arroyo interfered with the Comelec, an independent constitutional body, and violated Republic Act No. 3019 (the Anti-Graft Law) when she tried to influence a public official and thereby broke the public trust.

He said that presidents were supposed to be an example of honesty in government service, and that Ms Arroyo's confession had the effect of uniting various groups bent on removing a pretender to the presidency.

Numbers game

Asked if impeachment could be the remedy to the political crisis, Chavez said it was a numbers game that would not prosper considering the number of Ms Arroyo's allies in Congress.

"Ousting her through people power is the only recourse," he said.

Chavez also told reporters that Ms Arroyo appeared contrived and tense when she delivered her message, and "portrayed an image of a person lying while making a confession."

He said singer-actress Nora Aunor or comedian Ate Glow "could have done a better job."

Blanche S. Rivera, Michael Lim Ubac, Leila B. Salaverria, Nelson F. Flores, Tarra V. Quismundo and Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

GMA urged to force son …

From page A1

public office.

Ms Arroyo's son, Pampanga Rep. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo, and brother-in-law, Negros Occidental Rep. Ignacio "Iggy" Arroyo, have been accused of receiving huge payoffs from operators of "jueteng," an illegal numbers game.

Albay Rep. Joey Salceda supported Concepcion's suggestion on the President's relatives in government.

"The President should take this chance infused with expediency to execute profound changes and drastic and dramatic reforms. For example, the President is prepared to say that except for her and Sen. Joker Arroyo, that there would be no other Arroyo in public office," Salceda said.

He said it was "morally defensible that the people give her another chance, say a 6-month probation, when we could scrupulously watch her good behavior."

Humble for first time

Concepcion has given the President a better than even chance of getting the sympathy of the public back.

"For the first time since she took over in Malacañang, the President was humble and sincere in seeking forgiveness for her mistake," the businessman said.

Donald Dee, president of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said most people were willing to give her "space" to make amends.

"I don't think she has become a lame duck but she must do many things and take radical action so that most people will accept her back," Dee said.

Ms Arroyo's allies in the Senate also urged her to take drastic actions to regain her credibility.

Senate President Franklin Drilon called on Ms Arroyo to fire key government officials who "have done nothing but erode" her credibility.

He singled out the Philippine National Police and the Commission on Elections.

"People are wary of her next moves," said Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr., a member of the ruling Lakas-CMD.

Exemplary courage

He said "her owning the voice [on the tape] is a fair first step of a required number of steps to reconcile with society. It must be followed with moral reforms all over the corrupted and inept bureaucracy."

While more statements of support for the President came from her allies, some administration senators said more should be done to restore the people's faith in her administration.

Senate President Pro Tempore Juan Flavier said Ms Arroyo demonstrated exemplary courage and humility in admitting that she committed a lapse in judgment and in seeking forgiveness from the Filipino people.

"It is now incumbent upon the political leaders of our country to move on and pursue the healing process for the sake of the nation," Flavier said.

In the House of Representatives, the administration coalition expressed full support for Ms Arroyo's courage and grace in issuing a direct apology to the people last night.

Full trust

In a statement, Speaker Jose de Venecia and other House leaders said they were looking forward to the fulfillment of the President's pledge to accelerate government reforms and to focus on the creation of more jobs and economic development.

"Our full trust, confidence and support remain with our President who we helped to attain a clear and clean victory in the 2004 polls, whose results were validated by a host of international observers led by the 100 observers from the United States, and even by the respected National Citizens Movement for Free Elections," they said.

Ridiculous

De Venecia dismissed as ridiculous and unconstitutional calls from the opposition for the President and Vice President Noli de Castro to step down for snap elections.

Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay said the President's apology should not be interpreted as an admission of guilt for election fraud.

"That is something that not even the opposition was able to successfully prove during the official canvass. The records show the President was merely concerned with her votes," Pichay said.

Malacañang said the President did not commit an illegal act when she called an election official during the canvassing of votes last year.

"No law had been violated," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye told reporters. "There may have been an inappropriate action on the part of the President, for which the President has already extended her apology."

Understandable

Bunye also shrugged off impeachment moves against the President. "Nothing has been violated so there's no cause for impeachment."

For Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr., what the President did was understandable as she was merely concerned with maintaining her vote lead during last year's election.

"She was also a candidate and she was entitled to the protection of her votes. It just happened that she's the President that's why there was doubt as to what she did," Abalos told reporters. *With a report from Jerome Aning*

Cabinet serenades GMA, 'If We Hold On Together'

From page A1

Together," a Diana Ross tune from the animated movie "Land Before Time" that tells the story of a baby brontosaurus named Littlefoot.

Except for two or three who were out of town, Cabinet members gathered Monday night at the Palace guesthouse, waiting for Ms Arroyo. When she entered the room, they gave her a warm applause, a serenade and a bouquet of flowers—their way of showing full support for the embattled Chief Executive.

According to Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas, the female Cabinet members led the singing while some of the male Cabinet members were teary-eyed.

"I think it was just appropriate for the occasion although we were not the best singers," Sto. Tomas told the INQUIRER in a phone interview, recounting Monday night's events.

Ermita, Bunye tearful

She said she espied Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita and even Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye almost in tears during the serenade.

"It was an expression of support," Bunye told reporters at his news briefing yesterday. "We would like to reiterate that all the members of the Cabinet support the President 100 percent."

After the President admitted to the nation that she had talked to an election official during the canvassing of presidential votes last year and apologized for the "lapse in judgment," Bunye said people from everywhere sent communications to express support for her.

"We received many expressions of support for the President via text, e-mail, fax and even telegrams," the press secretary said, noting that these came from "institutional supporters, especially from the business sector, local government units and many other people's organizations."

International support

Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo also told Malacañang that his department received many messages of support from the international community, Bunye said.

"The response of various sectors has been very positive. You can see a broad base of support for the President and she takes it to mean that this is encouragement for her to continue her agenda," Bunye said.

At one point in the news briefing, Bunye said he thought that people had accepted the President's apology.

Dinky's idea

In a phone interview, Sto. Tomas said the idea to serenade the President came from Social Welfare Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman. She said it was Soliman who made copies of the song for the Cabinet members.

Sto. Tomas said that although the Cabinet members knew the President was making an important announcement that night, they were all gathered at the guesthouse for work and, consequently, ended up watching her televised announcement.

She said that when they learned during the day that Ms Arroyo was to speak to the nation that night, they thought it would have something to do with the "Gloria-Garci" tape controversy. Previously, the President had told Cabinet members that she would make a statement on the matter at the proper time, she recalled.

Sigh of relief

Sto. Tomas noted that Ms Arroyo had been talking to groups of people, including her lawyers and retired Associate Justice Jose Vitug, about the tape controversy.

The President also listened to Cabinet members in separate groups, she added.

"After she spoke (on television), we all clapped," the labor secretary said. "I think it (the clapping) was the equivalent of (heaving) a collective sigh of relief."

Sto. Tomas said the President went to see them shortly after her nationwide address.

When she entered the guesthouse, the Cabinet members applauded her. The President took time to shake hands with everyone in the room.

At that time, Senate President Franklin Drilon was giving a live TV interview and everyone, including Ms Arroyo, stopped to watch for a moment.

The President was about to leave when the Cabinet members applauded her again and serenaded her with the song, according to Sto. Tomas.

"It was emotional," she said, noting that the members could see that the President appreciated the effort.

Only human

She admitted that the Cabinet member had different views on how the President should go about handling the controversy.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said the President's decision to apologize before the nation was her call.

"I'm glad it's done," he said. "We have a President who is not a superwoman, not a saint, not an angel, not a goddess, but a human being who can make mistakes like everybody else," he said in a phone interview.

Gonzalez said the Cabinet was united and behind the President.

Happy birthday, FG

It was also the 59th birthday of First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo on Monday, the day the President broke her silence on the tape controversy.

His spokesperson, lawyer Jess Santos, yesterday said the First Gentleman did not have a party or any kind of celebration.

In a phone interview, Santos said he had breakfast with the First Couple that morning. He said he dropped by Malacañang to greet his client and to give him his favorite treat—rice cakes from Bulacan where he [Santos] hails from.

Santos said the First Gentleman was happy and they all enjoyed a breakfast of *danggit* (dried fish), corned beef and watermelon.

Little, RP ad pioneer, dies; 83

LITTLE

LYLE K. Little, longtime President of J. Walter Thompson International, Philippines, died on June 23, at his Peachtree Corners home in Norcross, Georgia. Little was born Oct. 20, 1922 in Hopkinsville, Kentucky and was raised in Oregon. He was 83.

He is survived by his wife, the former Ditas Razon of Manila, their children Cathy Little Burns, Debbie Little Moraitis and David Little; his sister Sara Little Chamberlin; sister-in-law Jo Little; son-in-law Alex Moraitis; daughter-in-law Amy Newland Little; grandchildren Christopher and Katie Burns; Amanda Burns; Miles and Christina Moraitis; and Mara Little.

Little was a pioneer of the advertising industry in the Philippines. He was one of the founding members of Philippine Advertising Associates. His lengthy stint at the helm of J. Walter Thompson International earned him a sterling reputation as one of the pillars here and abroad.

In 1984, after his retirement and after more than three decades as a resident of the Philippines, Little moved with his family to Atlanta, Georgia. He became a consultant for liaison between countries in the Far East and the City of Atlanta for the Office of the Mayor. Until recently, he was Southeast Regional Manager for Aqua Smart, USA.

Little was a World War II veteran, having served in the Intelligence division of the US Armed Forces when general Douglas MacArthur landed in the Philippines in 1945. He became editor and writer of The Daily Pacifican, a publication that was distributed and widely read in the Far East shortly after WWII. He was well known on radio for his regular show "Out of the Night To You."

The family and numerous friends celebrated Little's life at a memorial service held on Monday at Life Ministries in Atlanta, Georgia. The private funeral inurnment ceremony was held earlier at Arlington memorial Park.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, June 29, 2005
Sts. Peter & Paul, Apostles

1st Reading:	**Acts 12:1-11**
2nd Reading:	**2 Tim 4:6-8,17-18**
Gospel:	**Matthew 16:13-19**

Jesus came to Caesarea Philippi. He asked his disciples, "What do people say of the Son of Man? Who do they say I am?" They said, "For some of them you are John the Baptist, for others Elijah or Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

Jesus asked them, "But you, who do you say I am?" Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." Jesus replied, "It is well for you, Simon Barjona, for it is not flesh or blood that has revealed this to you but my Father in heaven.

"And now I say to you: You are Peter (or Rock) and on this rock I will build my Church; and never will the powers of death overcome it.

"I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and what you unbind on earth shall be unbound in heaven."

Commentary

These are the towering figures of the early Church, yet both were very human men, with lacks and astounding graces. Peter speaks for the disciples when Jesus asks them: "Who do people say that I am?" and his answer is "Messiah, the Son of the Living God"—but that answer is given by the Father, and Peter does not understand the answer until after Jesus' death and resurrection and his own long conversion. This is the rock of the Church that was also a stumbling block, one who denied his Master, even cursing him. But he learned forgiveness and mercy at the hands of his Master and was made leader in the Church in the place of Jesus to go look for the lost sheep and care for the flock in unity. Paul, once persecuted and tortured Christians self-righteously, religiously and made the long journey to being a missionary and preacher, an apostle to the Gentiles, but he too was weak—and fell back on his Roman citizenship so that he would not suffer the humiliation and torture of crucifixion. Let us pray for leaders who learn forgiveness and mercy intent on the unity of the Church and also aware of the world and those who wait for the Good News in missionaries sent forth from the community.

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Child porn gets 2 RP seamen deported from Canada

By Nikko Dizon

TWO Filipino seafarers were repatriated from Canada after they were detained by Canadian authorities for alleged possession of child pornographic materials, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said yesterday.

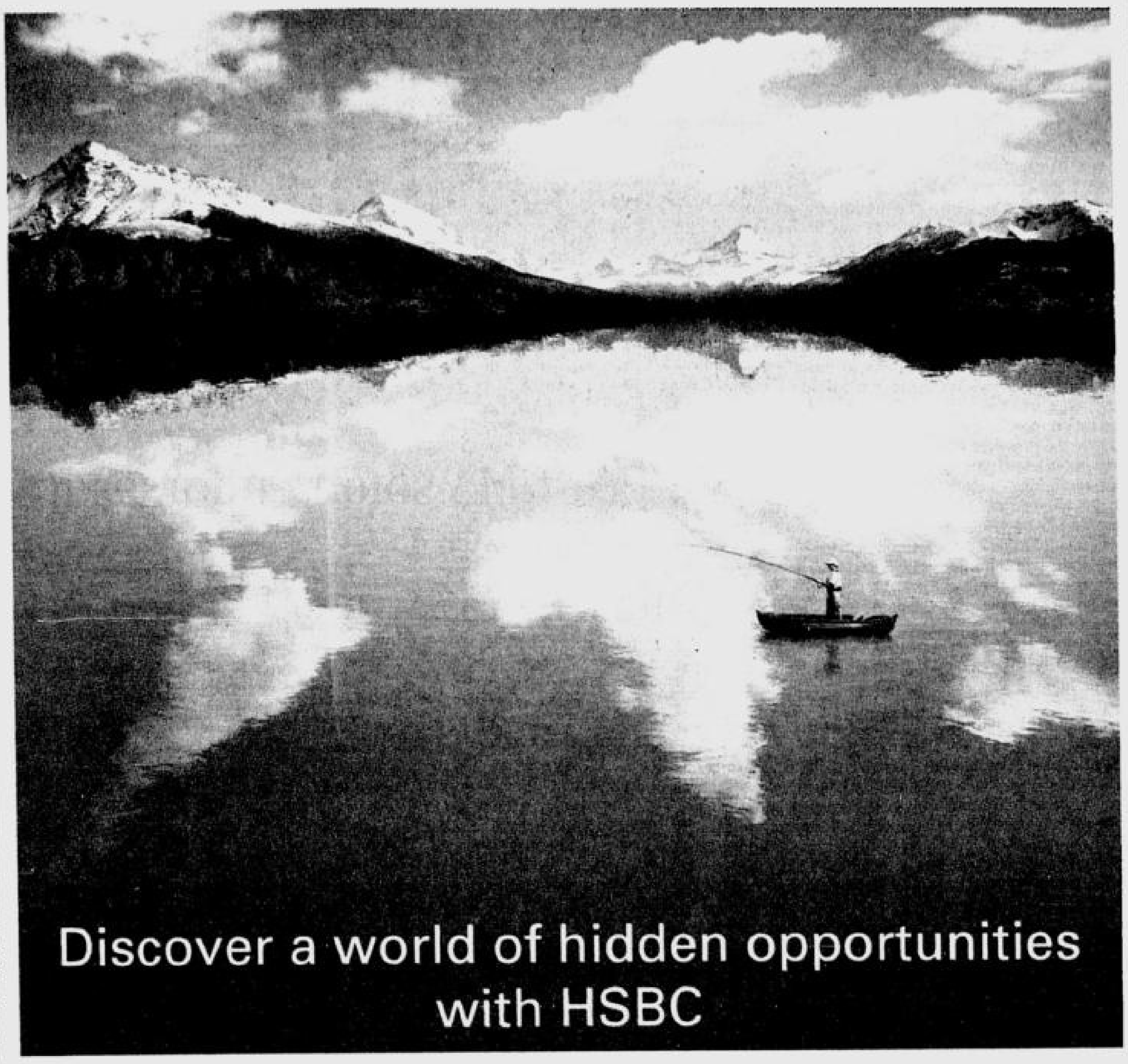
The seafarers, who were crewmembers of the Panamanian-registered vessel M/V Col. Caballero, arrived on Saturday morning at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia), accompanied by representatives of the Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC), the Canadian immigration service office.

The seafarers were arrested on June 17 after customs inspectors boarded their ship, which was docked at the Port of Vancouver, and found that their computers contained what authorities suspected were child pornographic materials, Consul General Zenaida Tacorda-Rabago of the Philippine Consulate General in Vancouver said in her report to DFA.

Rabago said child pornography is considered a crime in Canada and possession of such related materials is illegal.

At the bail hearing held three days later, the defense maintained there was no direct proof that the seafarers downloaded the pornographic materials and that they neither made copies of the materials for circulation nor intended to do so.

The Filipinos stated they bought the computers second-hand in Japan.



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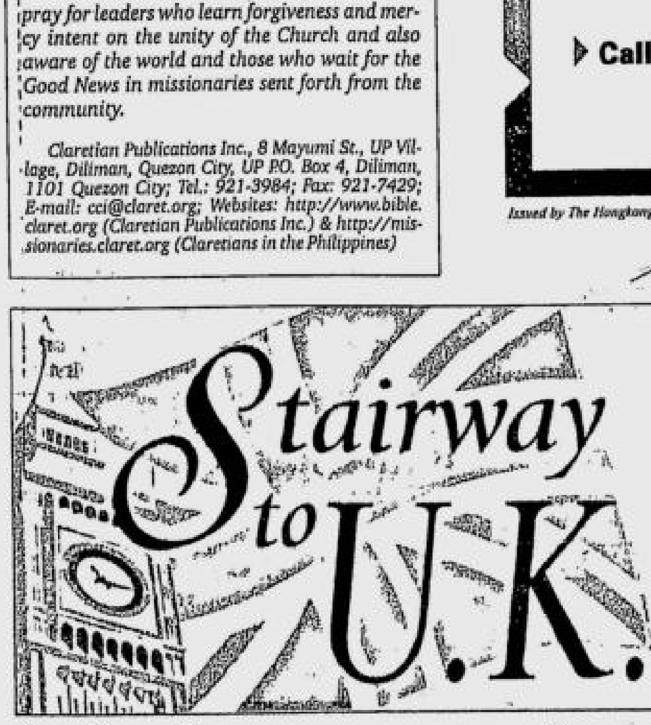
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GMA followed advice of 11 Cabinet members

From page A1

Michael Defensor said yesterday.

In the end, it was Ms Arroyo who made the decision on what to do about the controversy, he told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

Defensor said Cabinet members and advisers had been meeting for the past two weeks to air their concerns about the issue and give her their personal inputs on the controversial tape.

Crucial meetings

The most crucial meetings were held Friday and Saturday.

At least 11 Cabinet members wanted the President to address the issue of the tape once and for all, Defensor said.

Many of them realized that this was a governance concern that could affect long-term challenges to the Arroyo administration, he said.

Defensor said the Cabinet members gave the President feedback from their end and suggestions on what exactly about the tape she should address in her speech.

"At that stage, the President listened to everyone, assessed reports and feedback concerning the incident, even the national security and legal (aspects). In the end, she decided on her own," he said.

"It was the President who decided on her statement, even if she has the luxury of speech writers," he added.

No crime committed

Defensor maintained that the President did not commit or induce the commission of anything illegal or criminal.

"She's ready to face all consequences as stated. It's very clear, she takes full responsibility and accepts whatever consequence in whatever form," he said.

He said that while there was no specific mention of any tape and its contents, or of former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano, the President was obviously reacting to the tape being spread by the opposition as proof of alleged electoral fraud.

All issues confronted

"To many people, it's very clear. Some people may just be getting legalistic ... but all point to the fact that this was the tape [involving conversations with Garcillano) she's referring to," Defensor said.

The President's statement in effect addressed everything that was on all versions of the tape, he said.

"These were casual conversations. Casual as they were—and the President not being conscious that a wiretap was being conducted—you never heard the President say anything that will constitute an illegal act, much more a criminal act," Defensor said.

He said the "worst" that was on record was the mention of the 982,000-vote lead Ms Arroyo was enjoying over actor Fernando Poe Jr., and the one-million-vote lead she supposedly wanted to have.

"She was not asking for additional votes or cheating in elections," said Defensor, the President's political spokesperson during the 2004 elections.

Opposition won't stop

Defensor said he could not be sure if it would be the last time the President would speak on the controversial tape.

"I know from the start, the legal opposition will not stop. Those who destabilize will not stop. Those who want her to go down will not stop. But I hope our people will accept the apology of the President," he said, adding it was "really hard" for the President to admit a mistake.

Truth commission

Members of civil society who supported Arroyo during the Edsa II revolt said they would push through with the creation of a truth commission.

CODE-NGO executive director Sixdon Macasaet said an assembly of civil society groups which formed the Citizens for Truth alliance would convene tomorrow at the Ateneo's Institute for Social Order.

He said there were varied reactions to the speech, but many felt it was still not clear whether the President could be held liable legally for violating electoral laws and the Constitution.

"What we need to know is if that was everything that happened. If it's just that, we can forgive, but if there's something deeper than just following up her votes, that's another thing," Macasaet said.

Battle over tape moves to House today

From page A1

party-list groups mentioned in the tape?" asked Villanueva.

Calls to Garci 16 times

He said it was inappropriate for an incumbent President to call an election official several times while the canvassing of votes was ongoing.

"What she has not apologized for is the contents of the tape," said Villanueva.

South Cotabato Rep. Darlene Antonino-Custodio pointed out that the President committed several lapses.

"She did not commit a [single] lapse in judgment. She called Garcillano 16 times. Is that a lapse in judgment ... or should I say lapses? But that's too many," said Custodio.

Parañaque Rep. Roilo Golez said the President should also explain the "deception" that Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye attempted when he revealed the tapes to reporters on June 6.

Lengthy debates over whether congressmen had a right to hear the recording had hobbled previous hearings. So far, the panel has agreed to receive copies of the wiretap for possible use as evidence, but fireworks over the issue were likely to continue today.

"She should waive all her rights," said Cavite Rep. Gilbert Remulla, head of the investigative panel. "She should not hide behind her mandate and the Anti-Wiretapping Law. As the highest official in the land, it is incumbent upon her to disclose the conversations as they had to do with her official functions."

Laguna Rep. Justin Chipeco said that since Ms Arroyo had refused to resign, she should instead take a "leave of absence" so as not to influence the ongoing inquiry.

Free hand

Chipeco joined party-list Representatives Joel Villanueva, Mujiv Hataman and Etta Rosales, and Aurora Rep. Juan Edgardo Angara in saying that the five House committees should be given a "free hand" to continue probing into the conversations between Ms Arroyo and an election official the opposition has identified as Virgilio Garcillano.

"The deception that followed the discovery of the audiotapes, particularly the attempt to make us believe that the President was talking not to a Comelec official but a political leader, has aggravated the lapse," said Golez, Ms Arroyo's former national security adviser.

Golez said the President should resign since she would now be beholden to her congressional allies who would "shield" her from impeachment.

He also noted that Ms Arroyo did not answer the accusation that she conspired with a Comelec official to pad her votes.

"The President is now in an untenable position. She cannot any more lead and govern. She would be beholden to congressional leaders who are expected to shield her from impeachment. The check and balance would be in shambles," Golez said.

Paralysis

He said Congress would also be paralyzed as "the bitter political debates would dominate Congress when it opens in July."

"Her image, and the country's, would be in a pathetic state in the eyes of the international community. She has lost her moral authority, a crucial component in national leadership," Golez said.

"Resignation, for the sake of the country, is the only honorable option for the President," he added.

Remulla said Bunye might be charged with perjury for claiming that it was not the President's voice on the tape.

"I think those could be considered as perjurious statements. He has lost his credibility and I think anyone who is in his position should know what to do," he said, short of calling outright for Bunye's resignation.

He said Bunye would be summoned again next week to explain his earlier testimony.

Also yesterday, the National Bureau of Investigation announced it was considering the creation of a task force to focus on identifying the person responsible for the wiretapping.

NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco told reporters yesterday the task force would allow the other NBI divisions to go back to doing their jobs. "We were distracted during the recent weeks because of this wiretapping issue," Wycoco admitted. ***With a report from Margaux C. Ortiz***

Pro-GMA solon endorses impeachment . . .

From page A1

Iglesia ni Cristo, said he endorsed the complaint to determine if there was truth to the charge that Ms Arroyo had betrayed the public's trust by cheating in the 2004 presidential election.

He said neither his church nor someone from the ruling majority prodded him to do it.

"I am beholden to no one. It is my own decision," Marcoleta said. "The church has nothing to do with this and the church will never participate in this. That's for sure."

House Minority Leader Francis Escudero, however, slammed Marcoleta's move, saying it was pushing the opposition "out of the legal process."

Just for show

He said impeachment proceedings resulting from Marcoleta's endorsement of Lozano's complaint would be a *"moro-moro"* (just for show) staged by the administration.

Marcoleta said he endorsed the complaint after hearing the President admit that public trust in her rule had diminished because of her three-week silence on the controversial "Gloriagate" audio tapes.

"I want to clear up the issue about the betrayal of public trust. [The President] has said that the public's trust in her has diminished. I'd like to find out the extent of this," he said. "I'd also like to be assured that that trust is regained."

Marcoleta said he respected the opposition's claim that Lozano's complaint lacked enough evidence to impeach the President, but he believed that his endorsement would help "clear up the issue."

He said Lozano could still submit evidence while the complaint is being debated on by members of the House committee on justice.

"I thought that this should be resolved peacefully and this [impeachment] is the legitimate process to do it instead of people marching in the streets," the party-list representative said.

Supplemental complaint

Lozano yesterday filed a supplemental complaint, which said the admission of Ms Arroyo [that it was she who was talking to an election official about an alleged conspiracy to rig the 2004 presidential election] constituted a betrayal of public trust.

"Since the President admitted the unbecoming conduct of calling the Comelec commissioner without justifiable reason, then on that basis alone she is guilty of betrayal of public trust without prejudice to other evidence," the supplemental complaint said.

In his earlier complaint, Lozano said Ms Arroyo's silence on the tape showed she was guilty of cheating.

No credibility

But the House minority leader said an impeachment process initiated and pursued by the President's allies had no credibility.

"We tried to ask them not to do this, but they did not listen," Escudero said, referring to proadministration members of the House.

"They endorsed it and the President's own allies and party mates will dismiss it. If this will proceed, it will also be her own allies that will prosecute her," he said.

Escudero noted that Ms Arroyo's allies in Congress had stated that they would dismiss the complaint.

Senate President Franklin Drilon had commented on television that the President did not commit any impeachable offense for talking with a Commission on Elections official.

"They are all trying to preempt the process and are already judging it. Why then should we participate in this kind of process that had already been decided a long time ago," Escudero said.

Boycott

Initiating impeachment proceedings against Ms Arroyo will be difficult because proadministration legislators comprise the overwhelming majority in the House. The complaint needs the support of at least 79 House members so the Senate can start an impeachment trial.

There are only 15 minority legislators in the 236-member House of Representatives.

In addition, legal luminaries believe any move to impeach Ms Arroyo based on the wiretap was a long shot despite her admission on Monday night.

Antonio Betito of the Philippine Constitution Association said Ms Arroyo must have been briefed by her lawyers that despite her admission, the tapes could not be used as evidence in any tribunal.

Escudero, who urged Marcoleta to withdraw the endorsement, said the opposition would boycott impeachment proceedings stemming from Lozano's complaint.

"We will not participate in any way in the impeachment complaint that was endorsed by a party mate and ally of the President. We will not participate at all," he said. "We will not lend any semblance of credibility whatsoever to this particular complaint."

No rules

Eastern Samar Rep. Marcelino Libanan, vice chair of the House justice committee, said Congress would still have to adopt its impeachment rules before it could act on Lozano's complaint.

"The problem is we still have no rules on this. I am sure that this will be one of the things that will be taken up once we resume our session," Libanan said.

Based on the old rules, the House secretary general will forward the complaint to the Office of the Speaker, which has three session days to refer it to the rules committee.

It would be the rules committee that would then forward the complaint to the justice committee, he said.

GMA warns vs serious threat

From page A1

supply fears and the recent surprise poll win by a hardliner in Iran. (*See related story on Page B5*)

The President said that pump prices of petroleum products and cost of energy are steadily increasing. Even if the government wants to minimize the impact, she said, its limited resources prevent it from doing so.

In less than two weeks, local oil companies have jacked up their pump prices by one peso per liter.

Simple things

"I ask the people to heed my call to conserve energy. We can begin with simple things like replacing our bulbs into energy efficient ones, sharing a ride with a friend, turning off air conditioners earlier than usual, or using electric fans instead," Ms Arroyo said.

Be creative

The Chief Executive urged industrial and commercial establishments to be more creative by streamlining their use of electricity, or better yet, start looking at alternative sources of energy. Commercial buildings and malls, in particular, can also look at ways of reducing their electricity consumption without necessarily affecting their operations. Buses should consider using compressed natural gas, she added.

Act now

"Let us not fall victim to apathy. We face a serious threat to economic stability and growth. *Kumilos na tayo para sa kapakanan ng ating bansa* (Let's act now for the good of our country)," she said.

Ms Arroyo also ordered all government agencies to immediately cut their energy consumption by at least 10 percent more through the following measures, among others:

- **Replacing of all florescent lamps and incandescent bulbs with more energy efficient lighting**
- **Integration of energy efficiency in the procurement practices of government agencies, bureaus and offices**
- **Implement efficient use and proper maintenance of air conditioning systems to be turned on only between 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.**
- **Disciplined use of government vehicles under a strict system of monitoring**
- **The use of alternative fuels such as one percent of coco methyl ester (CME) blended in diesel**

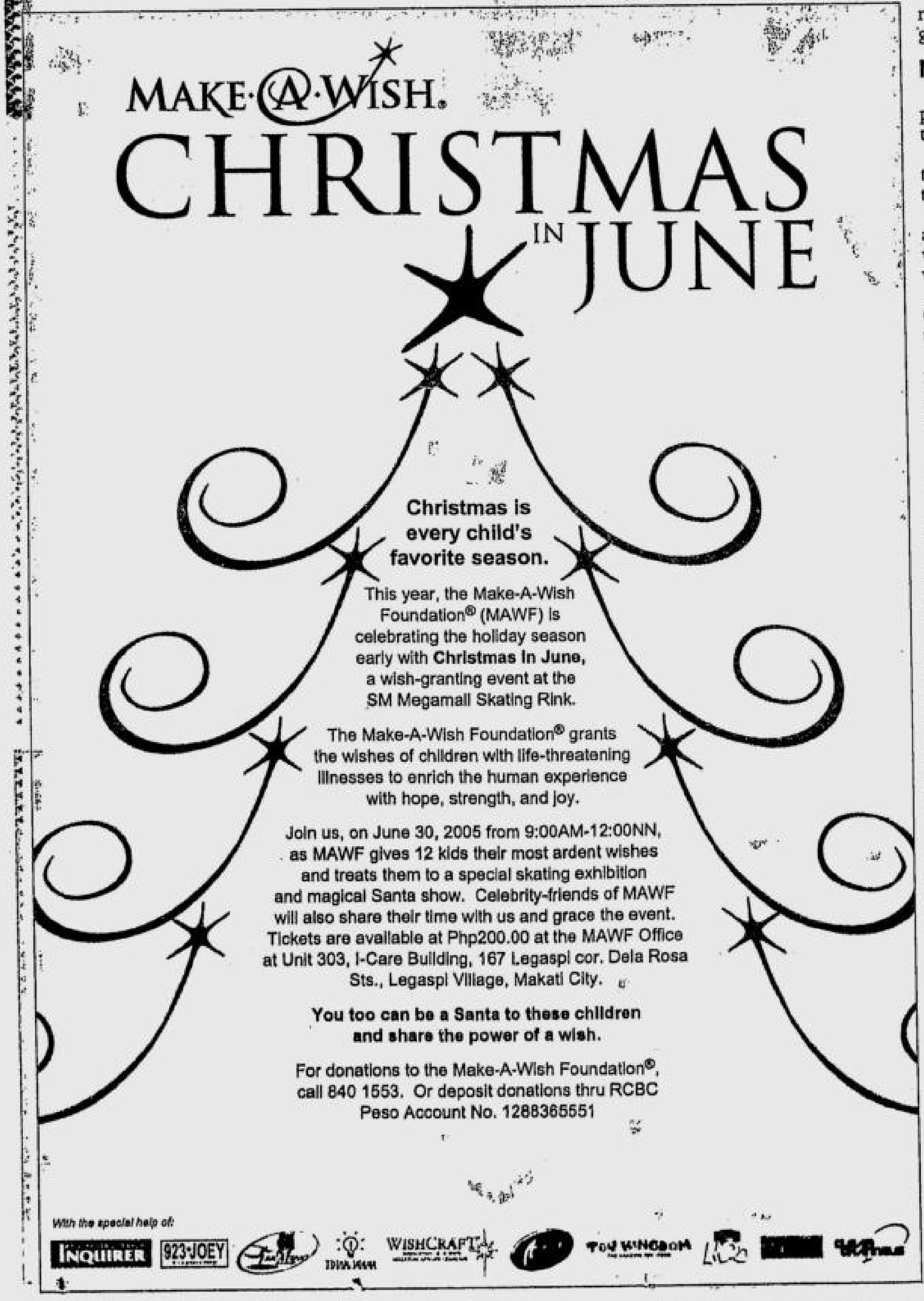
Alternative fuels

To encourage its use as one of other alternative fuels, the President said she will sign very soon an executive order reducing the tariff on ethanol from 10 percent to one percent.

Directive to Napocor

The President also directed the National Power Corp. to reduce its bunker and diesel consumption by 470 million liters this year to save about P5.9 billion and increase the use of hydro and geothermal plants which are the least expensive among the generation sources.

Ms Arroyo directed Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita to ensure that all government agencies comply with these energy measures.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Ayala Land eyes slice of US Pinoys' remittances

NEW YORK—Robert Castaneda listened to the sales pitch and dreamed of a retirement surrounded by family and former classmates he left behind 20 years ago.

"When you get older, you look for your friends," the 53-year-old said as photographs of plush new housing estates flashed before his eyes. "Many of us go back and forth."

Castaneda is one of an estimated 8.5 million Filipinos working abroad – about one tenth of the country's population, whose growing wealth and homesickness are attracting the interest of the Philippines' biggest property developers.

Last year the $8.5 billion in remittances from the foreign legion of nurses, engineers, musicians, seafarers, domestic helpers and information technology professionals breathed life into a property market still reeling from the 1997 Asian economic crisis.

Remittances, which accounted for about 10 percent of gross domestic product last year, jumped 16 percent in the first quarter of this year. And the country's top developer Ayala Land Inc. wants a slice.

In January, the firm set up an international sales division to tap the burgeoning affluence of Filipinos in North America, who number at least 3 million, and also in Europe, the Middle East, Hong Kong and Singapore.

"The potential of this market is huge," Ayala's head of international sales David Rafael told Reuters after addressing an audience at the Philippine consulate in New York.

"We're in this for the long haul."

Rafael said a fifth of all Ayala Land's sales this year could be to his fellow countrymen living in the United States. That is significantly up on last year, when total sales were P18.3 billion. Sales to overseas Filipinos were a tenth of that figure.

Ayala is offering homes and condominiums ranging in price from P30 million for mansions to small houses going for P1 million.

It is not a straightforward sell.

Scams

The Filipino community, particularly strong in California, Hawaii, Seattle, Chicago, Dallas and Houston, has a collective memory of property scams where Philippine developers ran off with cash from presales and never built their projects.

But a well-known name such as Ayala Land or the Philippine's other big house builders, Filinvest Land Inc. and Megaworld Corp., goes a long way.

"You look for the big guys," said Castaneda, who lives near Albany, New York, adding that Ayala Land, which built Manila's main business district Makati out of a swamp, will probably not "jerk you around."

Developers such as Ayala Land are impressed by how affluent Filipinos have become in the United States.

According to the US Census, the average annual family income of Filipinos in the country is $65,189, way above the US norm of $50,046.

The poverty rate among Filipinos stands at 6.3 percent – the lowest of any ethnic group in the United States, where the average is 12.4 percent.

The 60 percent of US-based Filipinos who own their own houses have benefited from a recent climb in US home values, which could help fund property purchases in the Philippines.

But because they have forged a good life in the United States, many Filipinos are reluctant to return to a country racked by political unrest, corruption, crime and Muslim and communist insurgencies.

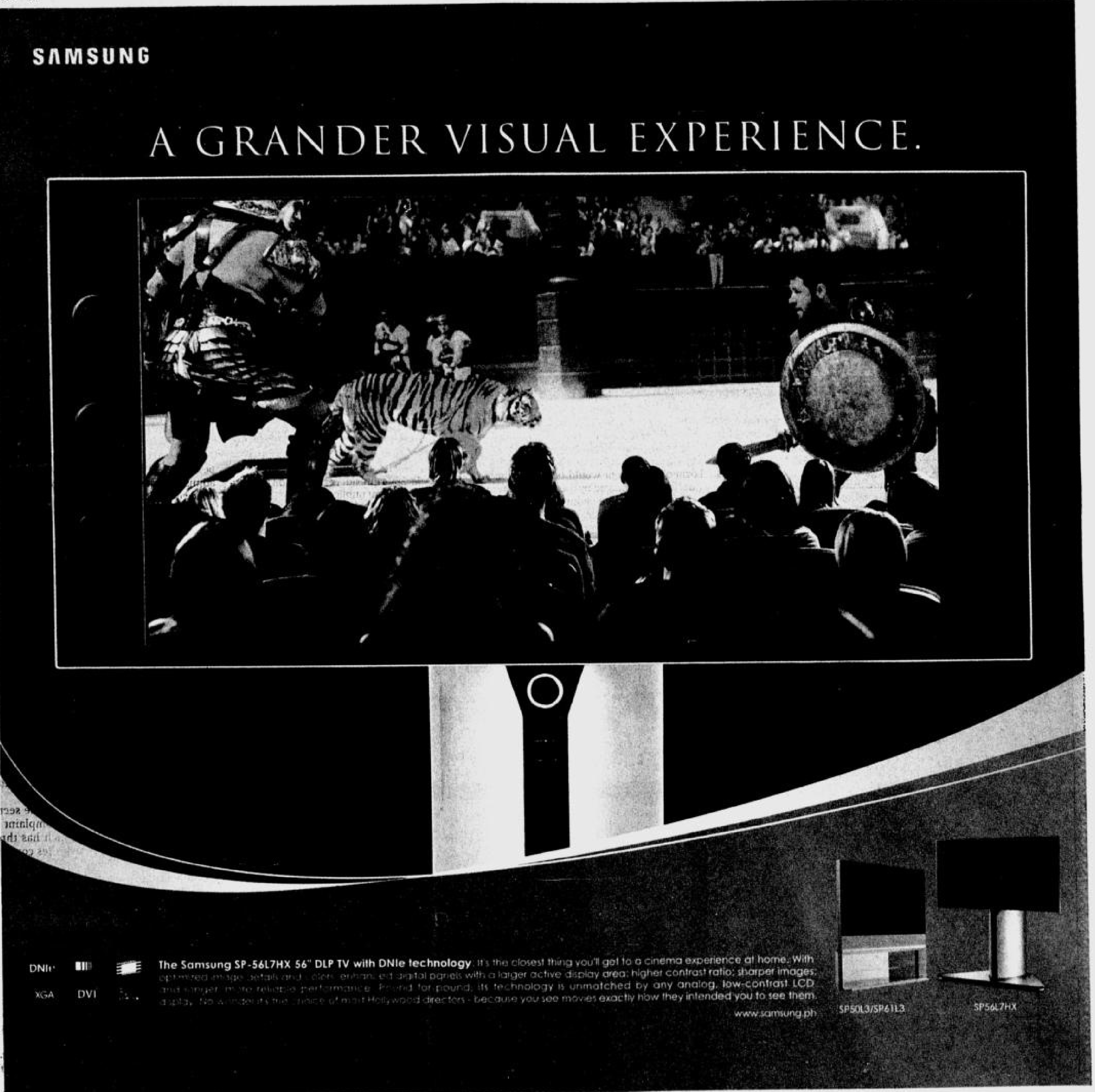
"My children are here. Why should I go back there? It's hard to uproot," said Adela Quisumbing, a loan officer for GMAC Mortgage in Jersey City, New Jersey.

Ayala's Rafael said the Philippines faced "many challenges" but many were exaggerated by the media. He appeals to Filipinos' emotional attachment to their homeland, saying Ayala does not want to "hype" the investment prospects of its property.

Most of Ayala's sales in the United States are to couples in their fifties and sixties who are planning to retire in the Philippines or spend at least six months a year there.

Ayala's approach seemed to work on Castaneda, who still thinks often of former classmates who were caught up in political violence when the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos declared martial law in 1973.

"A quarter of the class were killed, tortured," Castaneda said. "The biggest reason (for going back) is emotional. You never give up on your homeland, whatever the problems. You always hope it will improve." *Reuters*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Bishops vow to carry on Sin's fight for truth, integrity

From page A1

some mourners as an oblique reference to the current controversy over the alleged wiretap.

Never far away from controversies, Sin never had a chance to speak out on the issue of the alleged wiretap because death had intervened. He was Manila's archbishop for 30 years.

Among the mourners were seven foreign cardinals, including American Archbishop Roger Mahoney of Los Angeles, where a sizeable number of Filipinos live.

Sin's legacy was evident in the eulogies for him.

Balanga Bishop Socrates Villegas, Sin's longtime protégé, urged Filipinos to pursue the cardinal's mission.

"We will heed your call," Villegas said in a homily. "Because you told us to make peace, peacemakers we will be. You have led us to serve the poor, to serve the poor we shall do. We, whom you have left behind, will fight immoral governance as you always did."

Villegas was teary-eyed.

In a booming message from the altar, Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal said that the late prelate always "spoke the truth."

"His passing away leaves a vacuum in our lives at a time when we need a voice to speak the truth for us and to us," he said.

Desire for truth

Filipinos should continue seeking the truth, Vidal said.

"He (Sin) was our voice and he spoke the truth that our hearts always wanted to say," he said. "He led us to where we had always wanted to go."

Vidal, one of only two remaining Filipino cardinals, said Sin had never really left his people "for the truth that he spoke to us will guide us to do what righteousness demands from us."

"For do we not desire today the same justice, the same righteousness ... that he spoke when he was with us? Do we not continue to long for truth and integrity in every aspect of our lives?" Vidal said, speaking in stentorian fashion.

"SON AND father to his role model, Bishop Socrates Villegas, who delivered a moving homily during the funeral Mass, breaks down like he had been orphaned during the final rites. NONI YAMSUAN/REUTERS

"GO FORTH IN PEACE." Residents of Cardinal Sin Village in Punta, Sta. Ana, Manila, release doves outside the Manila Cathedral to coincide with the interment of their benefactor in a crypt under the cathedral's main altar. BULLIT MARQUEZ/AP

Sin was buried in a crypt near the tombs of three former Manila archbishops. He was laid about four feet away from the late Gabriel Reyes, who was archbishop in the early 1950s. The others buried there were Rufino Cardinal Santos, who was archbishop until 1973, and American Michael O' Doherty, archbishop until 1949.

Crucial points in history

Throughout Sin's lifetime, Vidal described the cardinal as a "visionary in many ways," someone who "saw what the Filipino people were capable of achieving.

"At the most crucial turns in our history," he said, "he proved his faith in the people's ability to transcend self-interests and to work for the common good. In every instance, his faith in our people proved him right. The Filipino is capable of the most noble sacrifice."

Davao Archbishop Fernando Capalla, president of the influential Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines and a perceived supporter of Ms Arroyo, spoke of the need for national unity.

"The task he (Sin) left undone, which he leaves as a challenge to his bishop-brothers to assume and finish, is our much-needed national reconciliation," Capalla said.

"He saw the great need for unity among Filipinos, but it must have pained him deeply that his charisma remained insufficient to accomplish this elusive goal."

A disappointed priest

After the funeral Mass, activist priest Fr. Robert Reyes told the INQUIRER that he was "disappointed with the words of Capalla."

"Those were the words of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo," he said, noting that the President often called for national reconciliation in the face of criticisms.

"I hope that what he said came from his heart. I hope he was not being used as a mouthpiece of Malacañang."

Outside the cathedral, there were no emotional outbursts, no chanting or a mad rush to get close to Sin's coffin.

Instead, some people silently cried, while others released blue and white balloons and doves, or carried banners bearing messages of love and farewell to the cardinal.

The crowd broke into applause as Sin's mahogany coffin was taken out of the cathedral past 9 a.m. and loaded onto a horse-drawn carriage adorned with white roses.

Tisoy was there, too

Pulling the hearse was "Tisoy," the scene-stealing, pearl-colored stallion that also pulled the hearse of the late movie actor Fernando Poe Jr. during his burial in December last year.

A military band and escorts led the brief parade of Sin's coffin around Plaza Roma fronting the cathedral.

Walking with the coffin were Bishops Teodoro Bacani, Rolando Tirona, Manuel Sobreviñas, Socrates Villegas, Oscar Cruz, Teodoro Buhain, Jesse Mercado, Gabriel Reyes and Leo Tumulak.

When the carriage returned to its starting point, the crowd again broke into applause.

But the 21-gun salute for Sin unnerved Tisoy, who became a bit jumpy.

76 doves

The flag was taken off the casket, folded and given to the President, who in turn handed it to the cardinal's brother, Dr. Ramon Sin.

After the coffin was brought back into the church, people swarmed around the hearse, grabbing at the roses. A few stroked Tisoy.

Around the time that Sin's coffin was being prepared to be brought to its burial site inside the church, residents of Cardinal Sin Village released 76 doves into the air, one for each year of the cardinal's life.

The crowd filled up most of Plaza Roma and lined streets adjacent to the church. It consisted mostly of students from various Catholic schools, priests, seminarians and nuns.

Several office workers, in their uniforms, took time out from their jobs to join Sin in his last voyage.

Other VIPs

Former President Aquino was accompanied by her son, Rep. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III. Also present were Senate President Franklin Drilon, Sen. Joker Arroyo, former Sen. Francisco Tatad and Manila Mayor Lito Atienza.

Ms Arroyo, in a black dress, arrived at 9 a.m.

People unable to get inside the church watched the proceedings from TV monitors mounted outside the church.

Several of them wiped away tears as the homily of Villegas was broadcast.

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Ex-Guantanamo inmates confirm Koran abuse

LAHORE—Pakistanis freed from Guantanamo Bay claimed they saw American interrogators throw, tear and stand on copies of Islam's holy book, and one former detainee said naked women sat on prisoners' chests during questioning.

The Pentagon denied the accusations and said al-Qaida training manuals instruct prisoners to make such false charges.

The men acknowledged that they were aware of the international furor caused by previous reports about Quran desecrations. Such reports triggered protests across the Islamic world and deadly riots in Afghanistan last month.

Seventeen Pakistanis were freed Monday from a jail in this eastern city, where they had been held since their release nine months ago from the US prison for terror in Cuba. A Pakistani official said each had been "declared innocent by America" and cleared of involvement in terrorism by Pakistani intelligence.

The claims of the men, who spoke to reporters after joyful family reunions outside the jail in Lahore, could not be confirmed independently. The Associated Press briefly interviewed six of the men separately, sometimes interrupted by Pakistani officials who appeared anxious to keep the men from making the allegations.

All six said they were arrested in Afghanistan after going there to fight the US-led coalition that ousted the hardline Taliban regime in late 2001 for harboring Osama bin Laden and his al-Qaida network.

"During interrogation, whenever I would make a reference to the Koran they would hit me in the face with a copy (of it). They would tear it into pieces. They would tell me that Koran teaches us terrorism," said Salahuddin Ayubi, a 31-year-old from Rajanpur in eastern Pakistan.

"They would throw the Koran against the roof, which would tear it into pieces and they would say 'This is the real source of terrorism,'" Ayubi said. "This happened several times in my interrogation."

Hafiz Ahsan, a 26-year-old Lahore tailor who said he was arrested three years ago in southern Afghanistan during the "jihad" against America—claimed he saw interrogators stand on the Koran and throw the book in urine.

"Our interrogators would stand on the Quran and they would ask, 'Call your God and ask him to rescue you,'" he said. "They would throw Koran in a bucket of urine. They would tear the Koran and throw it at our faces. All this happened in front of our eyes. It was a routine."

He claimed inmates staged a hunger strike in protest, and were then tortured with electric shocks.

Lt. Cmdr. Flex Plexico, a Pentagon spokesperson, said inmates at Guantanamo are treated humanely and there are "adequate standard operating procedures in place to ensure detainee religious faith is respected."

He said al-Qaida taught detainees to make false abuse allegations.

"That these detainees are now making allegations of abuse at Guantanamo seems to fit the standard operating procedure in al-Qaida training manuals," Plexico said.

A Pentagon report released this month confirmed five cases in which US guards at Guantanamo mishandled the Koran, including incidents in which one copy of the book was splashed with urine and another was stepped on.

The report concluded that none of the guards flushed the Muslim holy book down the toilet—an explosive allegation that surfaced in a Newsweek magazine report. The magazine later retracted the report.

The freed detainees said they had learned about the controversy from other inmates and prison officials. *AP*

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US renews campaign vs WMDs

WASHINGTON—A Bush administration plan targeting assets of companies doing business with North Korea, Iran and Syria will give the United States an important new tool as it seeks to halt the spread of weapons of mass destruction, US officials and experts said on Monday.

President George W. Bush is expected to sign an executive order this week giving the Treasury Department new powers to pursue the assets of companies believed to be helping the three states acquire technology for use in nuclear, biological and chemical weapons, as well as missiles, US officials said.

The authority is like that which allows US officials to go after companies financing extremist groups, officials said.

The new order could come on Wednesday when the White House responds to the recommendations of a presidential commission on weapons of mass destruction that found much intelligence on Iraqi programs was wrong.

The panel, led by Judge Laurence Silberman and former Virginia Democratic Sen. Charles Robb, called for a broad overhaul in the intelligence community to increase information sharing among the 15 agencies and foster dissenting views.

White House spokesperson Scott McClellan said the executive order is one of the panel's recommendations.

"We have been reviewing those recommendations ... (and) that review is nearing completion," he told reporters.

The new order, first reported by the Wall Street Journal, is expected to name specific Iranian, North Korean and Syrian firms. But Americans may also be affected. *Reuters*

POPE John Paul II

Process to beatify John Paul II opens

ROME— The process to beatify Pope John Paul II officially opens Tuesday with a solemn ceremony in which all the clerics involved will take an oath of secrecy—and promise not to be corrupted by taking any money or gifts that might sway their decisions.

Yet even before the cause opened, it seemed that virtually everyone involved was in favor—including the official whose job it is to play "devil's advocate," or to investigate any doubts about the late pope's saintliness.

In an interview Monday, the Rev. Giuseppe D'Alonzo, promoter of justice for the Diocese of Rome, said he was neither for nor against beatification for John Paul, who was viewed as a saint by many even before his April 2 death.

But when asked his personal opinion about John Paul's merits, he conceded: "It's the opinion that ordinary people have, simple people who we all saw in St. Peter's Square when there was the funeral Mass."

D'Alonzo was apparently referring to the chants of "Santo Subito!" or "Sainthood Immediately!" that erupted during John Paul's April 8 funeral. The calls prompted the new pope, Benedict XVI, to waive the traditional five-year waiting period and allow John Paul's saint-making process to begin immediately.

On Tuesday, Cardinal Camillo Ruini, a close adviser of the late pope and his vicar for Rome, will preside over the Latin-filled rite in St. John Lateran basilica to open the cause. D'Alonzo and the other clerics involved will swear to "faithfully and diligently" do their work, keep their proceedings secret and not accept "any type of gift" that might corrupt the process.

The postulator, or main advocate for the cause, Polish Monsignor Slawomir Oder, will hand over the list of witnesses who will testify—a number he said last week was "more than a few dozen." D'Alonzo will also present the list of questions to be put to the witnesses.

Also attending the ceremony is an official church delegation from John Paul's native Poland, including the outgoing Archbishop of Krakow. *AP*

Protesters vs Gaza pullout jam major roads

JERUSALEM—Thousands of cars lined the sides of Israel's main roads during evening rush hour on Monday in the widest protest so far against the planned evacuation of Jewish settlers from the Gaza Strip.

Anti-pullout campaigners, hoping to show their strength, had urged motorists to pull over and "pause" for 15 minutes to consider the justification for Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's "Disengagement Plan."

In another challenge to the pullout due to begin in mid-August, rightist Jews set up a new Gaza outpost at a site where troops had clashed with settlers on Sunday while razing buildings to prepare for withdrawal from the occupied territory.

Witnesses said 30 defiant Jewish nationalists moved into an abandoned holiday cottage and planted a flag on the roof close to the ruins of 11 other old bungalows bulldozed on the beach opposite the Gush Katif settlement bloc.

Brigadier General Aviv Kochavi, commander of Israeli forces in Gaza, told Israel Radio the army would move against the outpost, which he described as an improvised tent, "when the time is right."

Israeli authorities fear that a recent influx of rightists into the Gaza enclaves housing 8,500 settlers could complicate the evacuation and heighten the risk of violence.

At intersections across Israel, protesters held signs reading "Jews don't expel Jews," as traffic continued to move past vehicles that drivers had pulled onto the shoulders.

Live television showed cars bunched up on the sides of major highways but organizers said there was no intent to block traffic, and there was no sign of the burning tires that marked attempts in the past by some activists to block roads. *Reuters*

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File-swapping sites face suits for piracy

WASHINGTON—The US Supreme Court Monday gave a boost to the effort to crack down on online piracy, ruling that peer-to-peer networks like Grokster used to swap music and films can be held liable for copyright infringement.

In a unanimous decision, the highest US court overturned lower court decisions that developers of technology are immune from liability for piracy by its customers.

The court sought to preserve the principles of its 1984 ruling involving the Sony Betamax video recorder that had set the copyright standard for the past two decades, but said the situation is different for companies that actively promote making unauthorized copies.

While the Betamax ruling provided immunity for technology that had both legal and illegal uses, the justices said this is not unlimited.

"We hold that one who distributes a device with the object of promoting its use to infringe copyrights, as shown by clear expression or other affirmative steps taken to foster infringement, is liable for the resulting act of infringement by third parties," Justice David Souter wrote for the court.

The nine justices reversed an appeals court decision that dismissed MGM vs Grokster, in which the major Hollywood studios and global music labels were suing the free file-swapping networks Grokster and the StreamCast Networks' service Morpheus. The case was sent back to a lower court for a full trial.

Hollywood and the music industry hailed the decision. "Today's unanimous ruling is an historic victory for intellectual property in the digital age, and is good news for consumers, artists, innovation and lawful Internet businesses," Motion Picture Association of America president Dan Glickman said.

Mitch Bainwol, chair of the Recording Industry Association of America, said the court decision "has addressed a significant threat to the US economy and moved to protect the livelihoods of the more than 11 million Americans employed by the copyright industries."

He added, "The Supreme Court has helped to power the digital future for legitimate online businesses—including legal file-sharing networks—by holding accountable those who promote and profit from theft." But tech industry leaders said the ruling leaves the door open to more litigation with a murky standard for liability.

"The court has now given... a very difficult roadmap," said Richard Taranto, who argued the case for Grokster and StreamCast in the Supreme Court. "I think the immediate impact for the industry will be seen as a chilling one."

Fred von Lohmann, attorney for the Electronic Frontier Foundation, said the ruling "is going to unleash a new era of legal uncertainty on today's innovators. America's entire innovation sector is going to face a new era of copyright liability."

Ed Black of the Computer and Communications Industry Association lamented "a very dangerous decision for technology and innovation," adding that "if (the) Sony Betamax (ruling) was an umbrella, there are now some holes in it." *AFP*

Britain marks 200th anniversary of Battle of Trafalgar

LONDON—Seventeen ships from five nations stage a mock sea battle off southern England on Tuesday to mark the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar, during which Adm. Horatio Nelson routed Napoleon Bonaparte's French and Spanish forces and ensured that Britain ruled the waves for more than a hundred years.

The ceremony—watched by Queen Elizabeth II and thousands of spectators—was to involve 10 tons of gunpowder, state-of-the-art pyrotechnics and a replica 18th-century frigate portraying the HMS Victory, the flagship that Nelson commanded and died aboard when a musket ball struck his spine during the famous battle.

France and Britain have long forged an alliance since then, and ships from both countries will take part in Tuesday's ceremony, as will ships from Spain.

They decided not to carry out a precise reenactment of the Battle of Trafalgar with a victor and a loser, instead opting for a sea battle pitting an unidentified red navy against an unnamed blue one.

That irritated Anna Tribe, 75, the great-great-great-granddaughter of Adm. Nelson and his famous lover, Emma Hamilton. Tribe dismissed the idea as "pretty stupid."

"I am sure the French and Spanish are adult enough to appreciate we did win that battle," she said. "I am anti-political correctness. Very much against it. It makes fools of us."

French Vice Adm. Jacques Mazars, who is in charge of five vessels that are taking part, said: "We are proud to be here and to be part of this great all-week sea festival in Portsmouth. That's why the French navy sent five ships."

He said the point of such a ceremony isn't to put British forces on one side, and French and Spanish ones on the other, or to rekindle a rivalry, but to have the strong allies today celebrate a big moment in history when both camps showed bravery.

The mock battle kicks off a long season of festivities in Britain marking the bicentennial of the Battle of Trafalgar, which took place Oct. 21, 1805.

Tuesday's festivities also include 35 nations that have contributed 58 vessels to the International Fleet Review, with 57 heads of foreign navies attending. *AP*

SHIPS from 35 countries navigate in Portsmouth Harbour, England, on the eve of the International Fleet Review hosted by the Royal Navy. Queen Elizabeth II will review the Fleet as part of the commemorations to mark the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar. AFP

US Supreme Court junks journalists' appeal in CIA spy case

WASHINGTON—The US Supreme Court Monday refused to hear appeals by two top reporters who face prison for refusing to reveal sources in the case of a CIA spy outed during a row over the US rationale for war in Iraq.

Matthew Cooper of Time Magazine and Judith Miller of The New York Times now face up to 18 months in jail, after Justices declined to examine a decision by a lower court that they be held in contempt.

The pair had argued that press freedom guarantees in the US Constitution shielded them from having to reveal their sources to a federal grand jury probing how the name of CIA agent Valerie Plame was leaked to a newspaper.

The Supreme Court decision, announced without comment in line with custom, dismayed the journalists, their publications and press freedom groups.

"I am extremely disappointed," Miller said in a statement. Miller never actually wrote about the Plame affair but is believed to have gathered information for a story.

"Journalists simply cannot do their jobs without being able to commit to sources that they won't be identified. Such protection is critical to the free flow of information in a democracy," she said.

Miller's employer, Arthur Sulzberger Jr., publisher of The New York Times, immediately sprung to her defense.

"It is shocking that for doing some routine news gathering on an important public issue, keeping her word to her sources, and without our even publishing a story about the CIA agent, Judy finds herself facing a prison sentence." Time Inc. also said it was disappointed.

Press freedom group Reporters Without Borders lambasted the decision as "retrograde and freedom-curtailing" and said it foretold "defeat for all media and for the journalism profession."

The case will now go back to US District Court Judge Thomas Hogan, who ordered the journalists imprisoned in October 2004.

The DC Circuit Court of Appeals declined to hear their appeals, prompting them to go to the Supreme Court. *AFP*

Wal-Mart billionaire John Walton dies in plane crash

WALTON

WASHINGTON—John Walton, a billionaire heir of retail giant Wal-Mart, died Monday when the small homemade plane he was flying crashed in a national park in Wyoming, authorities said.

Walton's plane crashed at 12:20 p.m. local time (1820 GMT) shortly after taking off from Jackson Hole Airport in Grand Teton National Park, the National Park Service said in a statement.

The cause of the accident was not immediately known.

"Walton, the pilot and sole occupant of the aircraft, died on impact and was later pronounced dead at the scene by Teton County Coroner, Bob Campbell," the statement said.

A park spokesperson said Walton, 58, was an experienced pilot who was flying a homemade aircraft with an aluminum frame and wings wrapped in fabric similar to heavy-duty sail cloth.

"This was an experimental, very lightweight aircraft," the spokesperson, Joan Anzelmo, told AFP. It weighed between 180 to 225 kg, she said.

The Park Service's statement described it as an "ultralight aircraft with a small, gas-powered engine."

Weather conditions were good at the time of the crash, Anzelmo said.

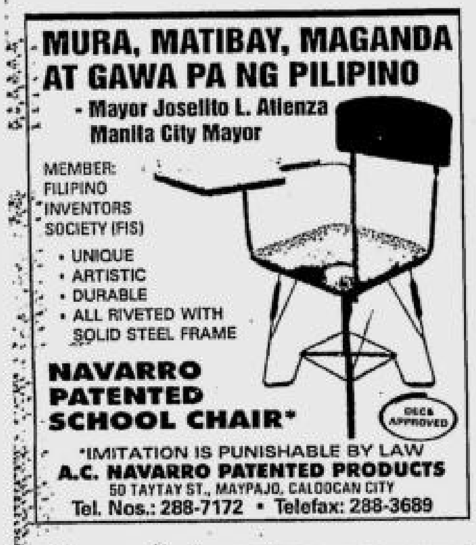
Walton, the second son of Wal-Mart founder Sam Walton, was the world's 11th richest person with a net worth exceeding $18 billion, according to Forbes magazine.

He had been a member of Wal-Mart's board of directors since 1992. *AFP*

NBDB Clarification

NBDB has never received a formal complaint against any book of Phoenix Publishing House. Last February, Phoenix voluntarily submitted 3 books to the NBDB Textbook Review Service: *Harnessing English Arts Today* (Grade 5), *Exploring Life through World Literature* (4th yr) and *Simply Science in the Next Century* (Grade 3). The Ateneo English Department found the Grade 5 & 4th yr English books "generally commendable" in which "minor improvements" are needed. UP-NISMED found the quality of the Science book "poor" because its "language and cognitive level are way above that of Grade 3, ideas are poorly organized, BEC competencies are not sufficiently discussed," etc. NBDB has recommended to Phoenix to stop selling the Grade 3 Science book and radically revise it. There is a proper forum for determining textbook quality.

National Book Development Board



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Pakistan on trial as gang rape victim launches appeal

ISLAMABAD—Pakistan's Supreme Court began hearing an appeal Monday against the acquittal of five men who allegedly gang-raped a woman on the orders of a village council, in a case that sparked international outrage.

Victim Mukhtaran Mai's appeal will be a test case in Pakistan where, like other parts of South Asia, women often suffer brutal "honor punishments," including rape and murder, to pay for the alleged crimes of relatives.

The United States heavily criticized Pakistan earlier this month after President Pervez Musharraf barred Mai from traveling abroad to speak about her June 2002 ordeal. Islamabad then lifted the ban.

The Supreme Court opened the 33-year-old's case and adjourned it until Tuesday after a 45-minute session on legal matters. The full hearing is expected to take weeks, officials and lawyers said.

"I have high hopes. I hope the original verdict will be upheld and that my attackers will be punished," she told AFP at the court, accompanied by rights workers who have supported her case.

Mai was raped for more than an hour in June 2002 on the orders of a tribal council in the remote village of Meerwala in reprisal for her brother's alleged affair with a woman from a powerful rival clan.

Six men were sentenced to death in August 2002 after she defied local customs and testified. But Lahore High Court acquitted five of them on appeal on March 3 and commuted the sentence of the sixth to life imprisonment.

The decision shocked the country and was condemned around the world.

"We have a strong case. We have evidence on record and we want the Supreme Court to re-appraise the record and decide it," Mai's lawyer Aitzaz Ahsan told reporters after a full bench of three judges adjourned the proceedings.

Ahsan said he had opposed a move to have the case heard before the country's top Islamic court, which itself had disputed the acquittals. Pakistan has a dual secular and Islamic legal system but the Supreme Court has the final say.

"That will prolong the proceedings. We want the Supreme Court to decide it," he added.

The case as a whole has shone an unflattering spotlight on the treatment of women in Pakistan and on the atavistic forms of tribal justice that persist in parts of the conservative Islamic country.

Military ruler Musharraf was reported as saying he banned Mai from traveling to the United States to meet officials and rights groups because he thought her US visit would give Pakistan bad publicity.

Islamabad dropped the travel ban a few days later after the United States said it was "dismayed" and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice secured a personal pledge from Pakistani Foreign Minister Khurshid Kasuri.

Pakistan, however, denied it acted under US pressure.

On Monday, Mai said the government had finally returned her passport, which it confiscated when it placed her on the so-called Exit Control List. The list is normally reserved for criminals and political opponents of Musharraf.

"I received my passport today," she said. Asked if she planned to leave the country after the case, she replied: "Not immediately."

Mai, who has become a rights campaigner since her rape, arrived in Islamabad by road late Sunday after her flight from the central city of Multan was cancelled due to a technical fault.

AFP

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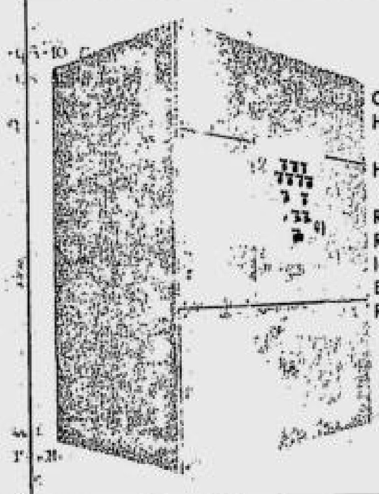
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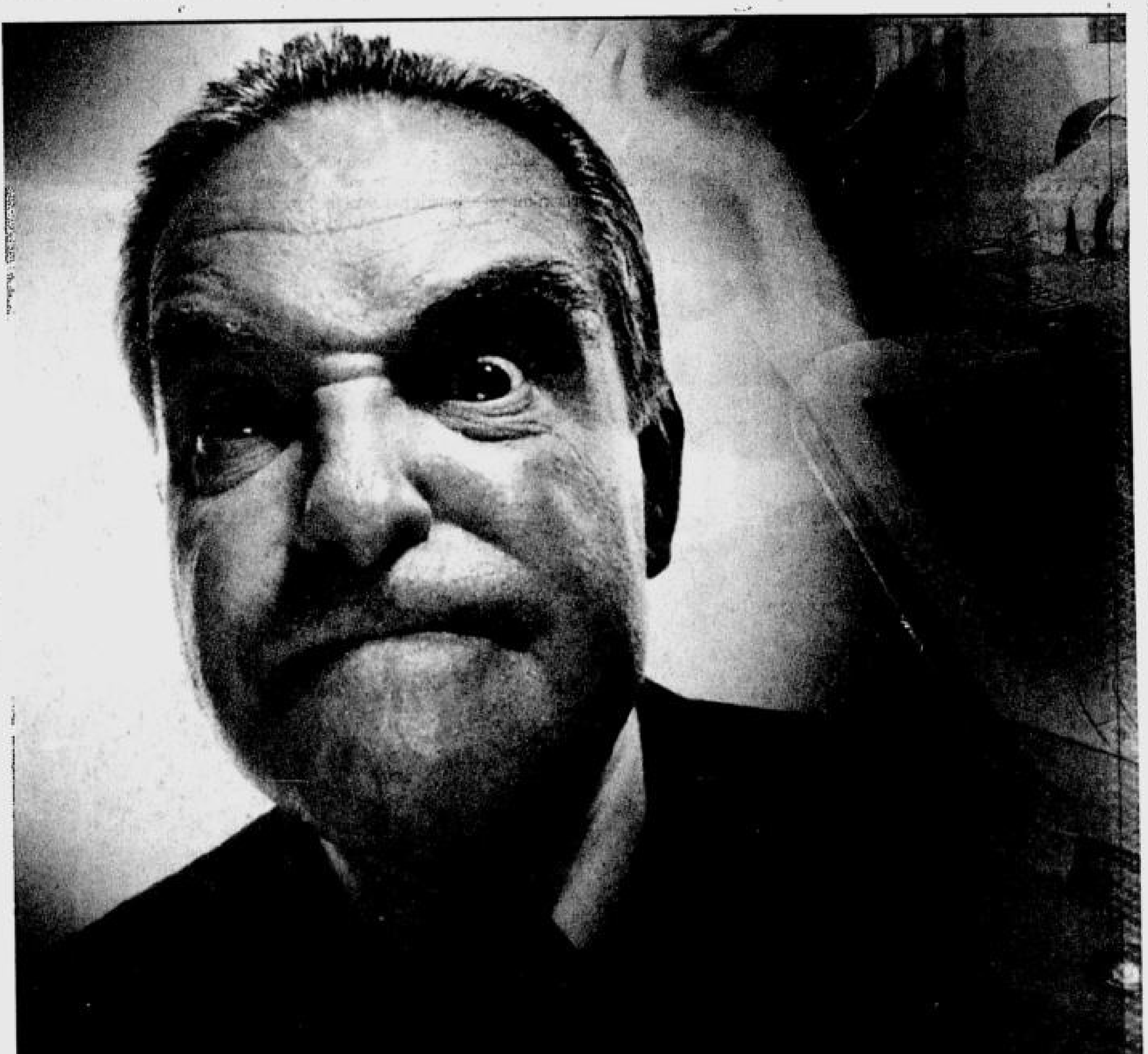
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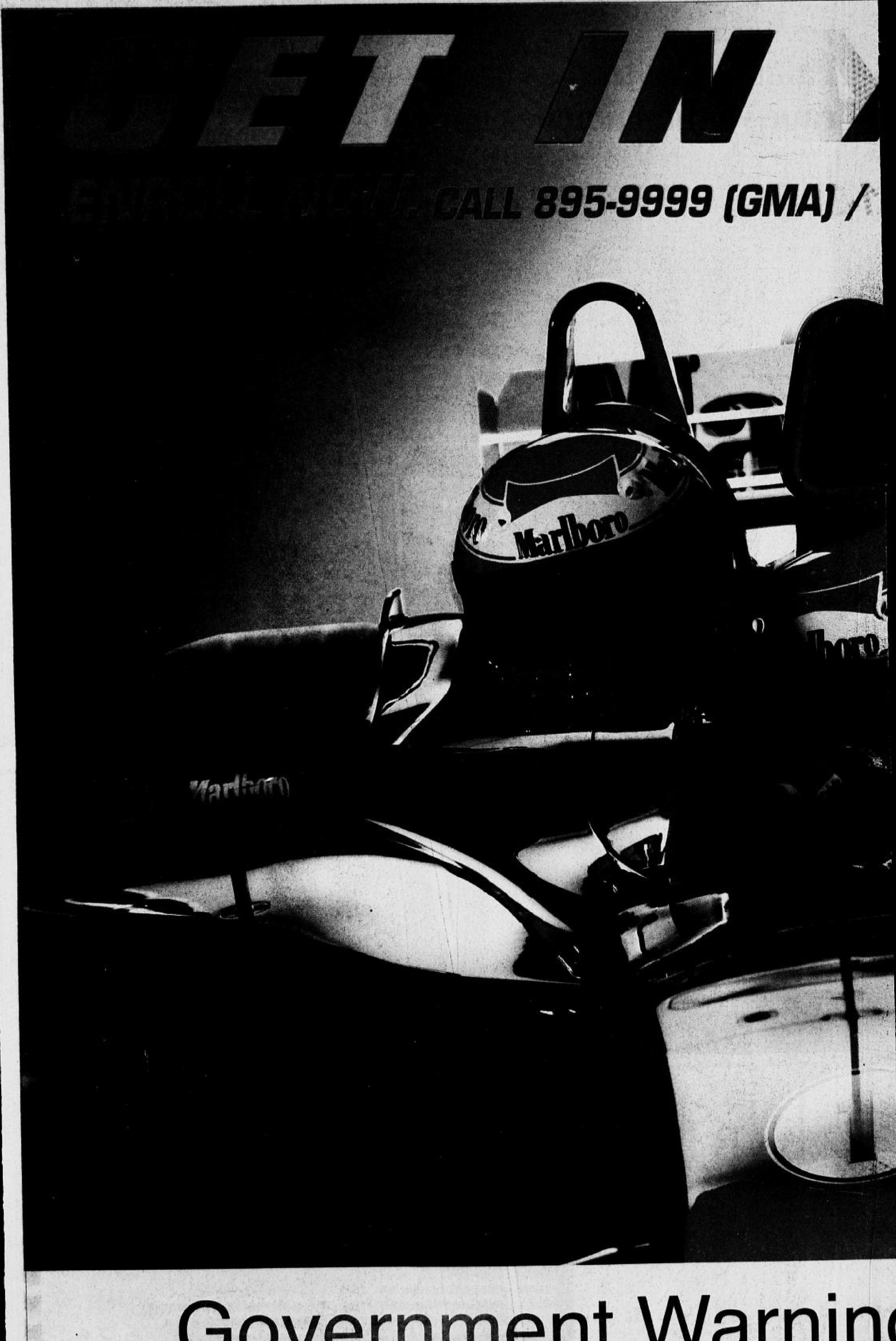
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OPINION

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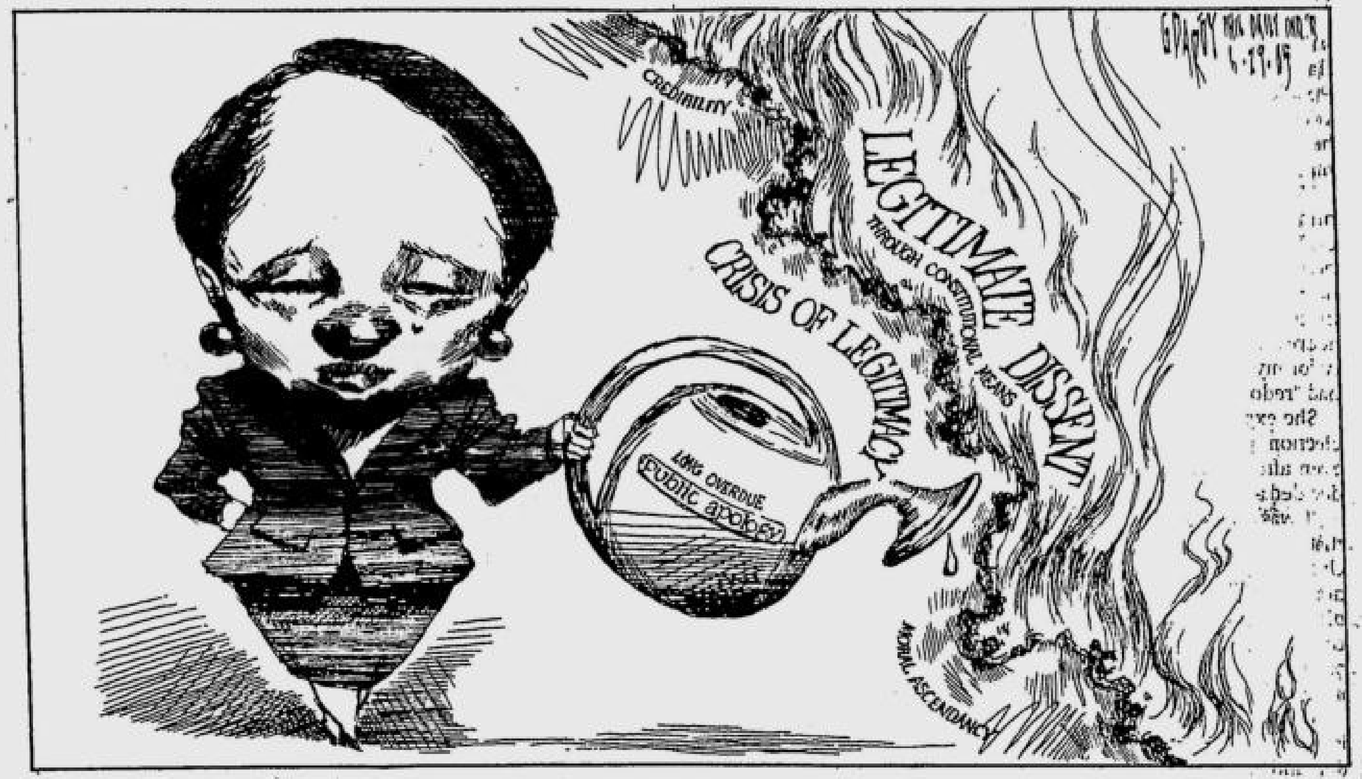

Suspended verdict

EDITORIAL

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo's apology to the nation last Monday was not without precedent. On Jan. 1, 1964, President Diosdado Macapagal used his New Year's Day speech to say, "We have not been without our faults and our failures. This we must confess in all sincerity ... I, too, am a mortal with feet of clay." He was reacting, in his day, to charges of being dictatorial in style, if not in aspiration. His speech was met with skepticism.

Skepticism, too, has met President Arroyo's brief speech, in which she admitted that she had talked to an official of the Commission on Elections in what, she assured the nation, was merely a desire "to protect my votes." What we cannot be skeptical about is the fact that the President made a virtually unprecedented apology to the nation, and that in her own way, she tried to be loyal to the example set by her father.

Unfortunately, at this time, the nation is less interested in her loyalty to her father's memory than it is in whether or not her assertion of merely having committed a "lapse in judgment" is something for which an apology should suffice.

The brevity of the President's address was surprising. Considering that she took three weeks to break her silence, she could have gone into more detail, if only to minimize the questions that have inevitably arisen as a result of what she said. The shortness of her statement owes to the advice of retired Justice Jose Vitug and her other legal advisers, as Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye made clear afterwards. However, it would have been more statesmanlike, and surely more politically responsible (if legally risky) to give the nation a fuller explanation of what she did, and why.

The President would have us believe that there's nothing wrong with "protecting" votes, though even the most generous interpretation of her defense must waver in the face of the repeated instances that she phoned the Comelec official whose name she still refused to say. Every realist will assert that the President is a politician like any other, with a pressing need to "protect" votes, the same as any other candidate. Be that as it may, the President, too, has an obligation unique to her office, which is to protect the votes of everyone—her opponents, included. This is the reason, going beyond the actual provisions of electoral and other laws, why she, by her own reckoning, committed an error in judgment. In any contest, it just looks plain wrong to be calling the referee for a private conversation.

It would have been better for the President to have told the Filipino people more so that they would have to imagine less. We do not even know which specific recordings she considered regrettable, since she did not bother to say which were authentic. Why focus on this question? Because the people have no choice but to hold back from either accepting or rejecting the President's apology, until they have a chance to see for themselves if the conversations she had with the Comelec official were merely improper.

Since the President has admitted that she did have some conversations with the official, those conversations indisputably become a legitimate public issue. They deserve the widest dissemination and discussion. They deserve the closest scrutiny. Their existence is undeniable, though their origin still remains obscure. The criminal nature of their origin deserves the most thorough investigation, but such an investigation cannot be used, in any way, to impede the public's obligation to listen and make up its own mind.

This should be the last time illegally sourced tapes are used as fodder for a political scandal. The scandal, however, is there, and we would like to see two resolutions to this crisis, at the very least. The first is a demonstration of political accountability, by which we mean that the public must have a chance to weigh the President's statements against the recordings. The second is that the perpetrators of the illegal wiretapping (if indeed it was illegally recorded) be identified and punished.

There has to be no ifs, ands or buts. The President has spoken; now, let the people be heard.

Too late and too little

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

CORRECT but too late. What President Macapagal-Arroyo admitted Monday evening everybody except her diehard apologists already knew weeks ago: that it was her talking on the phone to Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano about, critics say, cheating in the last elections. She should have done that a long time ago. But now it's too late. Her mea culpa will do little to quell the demands for her to step down. On the contrary, the pressure may increase because she had been gravely wounded. Like predators in the jungle, her tormentors will be emboldened and redouble their efforts to bring her down. That is the law of the jungle and, alas, also of Philippine politics.

But better late than never. She may not have recovered the moral high ground, as some of her apologists claim, but it could lessen the anger of the non-partisan people infuriated by her silence and constant lying and evasion. Nobody likes to be lied to.

The trouble with GMA's confession is that there is still evasion. While admitting that she did talk to "a Comelec official" (she did not say if it was Garcillano, another evasion), she claims it was not "to cheat" but merely to "inquire" on the results of the elections in some parts of Mindanao and "guard her votes."

People also don't like to have their intelligence insulted. Listening to the tapes or reading the transcripts, one doesn't have to be a genius to conclude that the conversation had the intent of changing the results of the elections to increase her lead over her main rival, Fernando Poe Jr.

Lawyers will make much of the technicality of the lack of direct reference to "cheating," but people can read between the lines. Conspirators don't have to be detailed or specific in their conversations. They understand one another perfectly well even if the conversation is hazy or ambiguous to somebody who is not in on the conspiracy. A seemingly innocent order like "*bahala ka na*" could mean "*kill the bum*" to a triggerman. The latter understands his boss perfectly well.

While admitting an impropriety and saying "so sorry" for her actions, the confession is still incomplete. When a sinner confesses to a priest, the latter will tell him to repent sincerely and resolve never to sin again and to repair the damage to whomever he has sinned against. If he stole something, the priest tells him to return what he stole. Even if the priest gives him absolution and he has prayed the Act of Contrition and several Our Fathers and Hail Marys, the absolution is not valid if the sinner does not return what he stole. He is not forgiven by even the all-merciful God.

What I'm driving at is that if you stole the presidency, you must, to be forgiven, return the presidency. You can't just say "So sorry" and go your merry way and think that you have been forgiven.

To repeat, the confession was too little and too late. If she had confessed immediately after the tapes were revealed, it would have had a much better effect. But after 22 days of silence and trying to evade facing a very important issue, the people have already concluded that she is guilty. Her confession was merely a formality.

It was like a suspect whom police investigation has already shown to be the culprit, breaking down during intense interrogation and finally admitting that he did it. For GMA did not confess of her own free will. She was forced to admit it by public opinion.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said that from the very start, she wanted to "speak out on the issue" but her legal counsel "advised her to take her time." Wrong advice. (That's the trouble with having too many advisers—and GMA has much more than her share. They give so many contradictory advice that you get confused and, more often than not, you follow the wrong one. Which she did again.)

But, to repeat, better late than never. And rather than join the baying hounds running down a wounded prey, I would opt to be more merciful and give her another chance. When I watch nature shows on television and predators are chasing a prey, I always root for the victim and often would turn off the TV set before they catch it. If that is how I react to animals, what more if the actors are human beings?

GMA haters want her to resign. But the cure may be worse than the disease, as the INQUIRER editorial intimated yesterday. In fact, I think Vice President Noli de Castro is her biggest defense against another people power chasing her out of Malacañang like it did two previous presidents. Had the vice president been somebody else—like Loren Legarda, for instance—people would have been more eager to change presidents. Not with Noli.

So what do we do now? As I see it, let's have a breathing spell. Maybe she has learned her lesson. Maybe she was scared stiff this time and will resolve to really change. Give her a chance to change. If she doesn't, then we can always go back to the barricades.

Holding snap elections at this time may not be the magic bullet that will correct everything. Who will conduct the elections? The present Comelec? *Huwag na lang*. The harvest may be the same banana.

I think we have first to improve the manner of counting and canvassing the election returns before we can hold credible elections. That should be the first priority. And that is supposed to be the purpose of the congressional investigation into the tapes: to craft legislation to improve our electoral system.

That should give the President enough time for reforms, like abolishing the pork barrel, reducing all allowances and expenses so she can lower taxes to give the people a break.

Guilty!

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

NOLI de Castro, Franklin Drilon and Mike Defensor would all say they admired their President for showing exceptional courage. It took guts, they said, for her to humble herself and beg for the nation's forgiveness.

What courage, gentlemen? The confession had to be pulled out of her like a scrap of meat from a mangy dog's teeth. And not after her people first tried to cloud the issue with all that talk of a doctored tape, the proliferation of tapes and the female voice being Iggy Arroyo's.

GMA's confession last Monday is no more an act of courage than was her admission on Rizal Day, 2002 that she was the source of this country's "never-ending divisiveness" and therefore would not run again because to do so would be to give the country more of it. If she had fulfilled her vow, that would have been an act of courage. But she did not. It's the same thing today. If she had resigned after admitting being the voice on the tape, that would have been an act of courage. But she did not. These are not acts of bravery, these are acts of knavery.

But I'm glad GMA has confirmed what the world has already known forever because it reduces things to absolute simplicity. The only things that need to be resolved now—and this I address specifically to society, the Church and business, which have hemmed and hawed on the ground of not having anything to go on—is the gravity of the sin and the appropriate punishment.

How grave is the sin?

GMA says her conversation "with a Comelec official" was a mere "lapse in judgment." She never intended to influence anyone, or, heaven forbid, cheat. All she wanted to do was protect herself in that part of Mindanao. In any case, the counting was already over, nothing could be done to alter it. She won fair and square.

I understand that a group of experts was hired—at taxpayers' cost, of course—to mount this production. Unfortunately, GMA is not the easiest person to direct in a melodrama: She does not have the capacity to shed a tear or two, unlike Imelda, to suggest she feels the pain of the nation. Which was really all that this production had to bank on to sell its idea, an emotional assault to make people forget its argument. Because the argument sucks.

Simply at face value, GMA contradicts herself. If the counting was pretty much over and the votes in Marawi et al. could no longer affect it, what in God's name was she trying to protect? Why call up a Comelec official, who has better things to do than humor a candidate, even the incumbent President, to make *kumusta*? Even if you grant GMA just wanted to protect her votes, it doesn't get better. Why wasn't the same privilege extended to FPJ, Roco, Lacson and Villanueva? If I recall right, they were pounding on the Comelec's door with complaints of cheating, and were being routinely shunned. For GMA to have access to the Comelec anytime, anywhere, anyhow, when her rivals did not by itself is cheating.

Still at face value, for GMA to even think any reason other than that she was withdrawing justified calling a Comelec official by itself makes her unfit for public office. That is a cardinal rule in elections, as inviolable as the sanctity of the vote itself. If the President can imagine transgressing it is a mere lapse in judgment, then there are no limits to what she will transgress. We do not need to look very far for other examples—and horrendous consequences—of GMA's lapses in judgment. Acsa Ramirez knows that only too well.

And that is only at face value. I won't dwell on the contents of the tape again. I've already highlighted its damning portions in a column, as has the INQUIRER on its front page (June 28). And GMA's CD has been more widely circulated than all this country's recording artists' albums combined. Of course, you'll still hear some people saying there's nothing "improper" in that conversation. That's what Defensor and Drilon said after GMA's confession last Monday. I can believe that Defensor would say that. Anybody who says he rescued a kidnap victim who had the luxury of a cell phone while being held a prisoner will say anything. But the Senate president? Either he has very serious problems with his powers of comprehension or he is an absolute wimp.

What is the appropriate punishment for the crime?

GMA herself says that is for us to forgive her, go on with our lives, and unite behind her as one nation. The text messages that inundated my cell phone shortly after she said that promptly showed me what people thought of that concept of crime and punishment. The murderers, rapists and robbers in Muntinlupa, one message read, now also want to apologize and be set free. I myself had this image in my mind of a murderer telling the victim's kin: "I did it, I am sorry for my lapse in judgment, let us put this behind us, I want you to contribute to my favorite charity." It was that surreal.

As I said before, there is a difference between Bill Clinton apologizing to the American people and Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo apologizing to the Filipino people to stave off being ousted. Clinton merely broke his vows of marriage, GMA broke her vow of office. Clinton merely cheated his wife, GMA cheated the nation. Clinton merely screwed his apprentice, GMA screwed the voters. Clinton is best punished by leaving him to tender mercies of Hilary, GMA is not best punished by keeping her to the tender mercies of Mike, however cruel that punishment is.

GMA has apologized to us and begged our forgiveness. Well, as Susan Roces says, if God can forgive, who are we not to? I myself have already forgiven Erap even if hasn't yet apologized and propose that he serve 20 years instead of 40.

I forgive GMA, too, and propose that she and her husband occupy separate cells instead of one.

Battle of attrition looms

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has deflected demands for her resignation, following her admission last Monday that she had talked with a Commission Election official concerning the 2004 elections.

Breaking 22 days of silence over the controversial tapes, which were purported to show proof that she had allegedly tried to rig the results, the President stopped short of explicitly owning the voice in the tape recordings, thereby rebuffing her opponents' efforts to humiliate her by demanding a groveling admission.

The President said she recognized that she made "a lapse in judgment" in making "any such call" to the Comelec official—supposedly Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano (whose name was never mentioned in the brief statement). She regretted having "taken so long" to address the issue. And she took "full responsibility for my actions," as she assured the nation she had "redoubled (her) efforts to earn your trust."

She explained her action in the context of the election process that "was unnecessarily slow even after the election results had already been decided and the votes counted."

"I was anxious to protect my votes and during that time had conversation with many people, including a Comelec official," she said. "My intent was not to influence the outcome of the election, and it did not." She emphasized the point that the outcome "had been predicted by every major public opinion poll and adjudged free, fair and decisive by international election observers, and…Namfrel."

Although the admission addressed the red-hot issue (her silence), which fueled her opponents' demand for her resignation, the key question now is whether they would decelerate or step up their campaign to press for her ouster. Most likely, they will look for a fresh issue to refuel their campaign, which has not gained the mass support they have desired. Her admission and apology seem, at best, to have removed her long silence as a mobilizing issue against her, and to have given her a breathing space from which she could regroup her forces and make counter-moves to try to regain the initiative.

By addressing the silence issue, the President has shifted the conflict to the battle ground of public opinion, where she has decided to engage her opponents on their own terms. The President appears to have thought that by making a "mea culpa" she would gain broader public sympathy. Her statement suggested that the line of attack would be the argument that, even though the tapes indicated that she made an effort to interfere with the election process, the effort did not translate into cheating, especially on a "massive" scale that would have changed the outcome. Another tack is to emphasize the argument that her reform programs, particularly the tax measures designed to avert fiscal deficit crisis, are already in place and further political turmoil would put these programs in jeopardy.

The second argument might appeal to the business community and the international community, whose main concern is political stability as a condition for economic reforms to take off.

Whether this theme would win converts for domestic support and would calm the streets and the clamor for her resignation is unclear at this stage. Judged from the reactions to her statement, the country remains deeply divided, with the clamor still ringing at a high pitch. Those who have concluded that the President had cheated the election on the basis of the conversation heard on those tapes are unlikely to be moved or to change their minds by her call for cooperation and by her apology. A large segment of the population, which voted for her in 2004, is likely to give her another chance and to believe that her interference in the election did not translate into cheating.

Thus, the country is now gripped in a stalemate between believers and non-believers. There is a question whether her opponents can maintain their rage and escalate its tempo and their campaign would create a groundswell that would force her to step down.

Since the scandal over the alleged *jueteng* payoffs erupted several weeks ago, followed by the disclosure of the tapes, anti-regime forces have tried to stir up people to go to the streets to put pressure on the President to resign, with disappointing results. The middle class, which was the backbone of the mass mobilization of Edsa I and II, has been mainly apathetic, which has been blamed on people power fatigue.

Unless further agitation produces mammoth crowds in the streets, what is most likely to happen is that the conflict would be driven to the impeachment option. So far, regime opponents have been reluctant to take their campaign to the impeachment arena, where the President enjoys certain advantages. The impeachment option is deemed by some as a desirable direction, as it diverts the conflict away from the streets toward a constitutional framework, an arena preferred by the middle class and even by the business community, although a protracted impeachment battle could further aggravate political uncertainty.

Those who are itching to engage in a decisive battle for the crowds in the streets might well be reminded by the experience in the impeachment of deposed President Joseph Estrada. From October 1999 to December 2000, following the jueteng exposé of Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, the public was getting tired of the impeachment trial and protests were waning. It took another provocative event to refuel the momentum of the Estrada ouster campaign: keeping sealed the brown envelope containing his secret bank accounts.

The prospect we face today is a long-drawn battle of attrition and a battle for public opinion in the streets, in which nobody wins.

The cardinal's family

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

IN HIS homily during the funeral Mass for Jaime Cardinal Sin, Balanga Bishop Socrates Villegas referred to the special "father and son" relationship he shared with the archbishop. As a high school student, Bishop Soc said, he had idolized the prelate and was thus overwhelmed with the challenge when, as a young priest, he was taken in as the cardinal's personal secretary. (The cardinal's secretaries who had served him in his early years as Archbishop of Manila had by then moved on to other responsibilities. They were Antipolo Bishop Gabby Reyes and Msgr. Gene Velarde, who is based in Iloilo.)

Through the years, Bishop Soc's relationship with the cardinal blossomed from the merely professional to a filial one, with Bishop Soc fulfilling the role of confidante and spokesperson, adviser and, in the latter years of the cardinal's illness, caregiver.

Indeed, said Bishop Soc, their "father and son" relationship underwent a subtle shift as the cardinal steadily weakened, so that toward the end, it was Bishop Soc who was "fathering" his mentor.

Because he enjoyed such close proximity to the cardinal, Bishop Soc came in for his share of brickbats from critics of the cardinal's actions and policies. In his role as spokesperson for the cardinal, he was often blamed for views and pronouncements he articulated which, for all we know, he may not have personally believed in. And because he shared a spot in the limelight that fell on the cardinal, Bishop Soc inevitably came in for his share of intrigue.

It was another bishop who, describing the role played by the young bishop in the history of the archdiocese, put his role in proper perspective. Bishop Soc, he said, was like the sibling who chose to stay in the ancestral home to look after an ailing parent, curbing his own personal ambitions to undertake a filial responsibility, one discharged not just out of loyalty and duty but out of love and fondness.

Because he responded to a priestly vocation, Cardinal Sin passed up the chance to sire his own children. But in Bishop Soc he found the son of his heart, who discharged a son's responsibilities and duties and earned his love and trust. In this the cardinal was luckier than most priests, and indeed than many other men. It is a blessing I am sure he has thanked the Lord for many times over.

* * *

BLESSED indeed was Jaime Cardinal Sin in his family of choice and of birth. I remember hearing a story early in his term as archbishop of Manila, that he had told his own brothers and sisters that they could never look to him for material support or even influence on their behalf even if he had just been named head of the country's premier archdiocese. In fact, he is supposed to have pointed out, he would need to lean on them even more, given his greater responsibilities.

The sibling most assiduous in his duties was Dr. Ramon Sin, who was already a prominent physician when his brother was appointed archbishop of Manila. It would fall on Dr. Sin, who is single, to provide not just physical care of his brother, but even his smallest needs, including undershirts and other garments. An oft-told story is how the doctor first found out a plot of land he had inherited from his parents had been donated by the cardinal to the Missionaries Charity—through a thank you letter written by Mother Theresa.

In my years working for the archdiocese in the late 1970s, Dr. Sin became a familiar figure at Villa San Miguel, dropping by to share in a meal or to drop off medicines and other needs. His other siblings would show up at the Villa during family occasions, like the cardinal's birthday, but otherwise they kept a respectful distance.

They had all grown older, I saw, as I viewed the cardinal's funeral Mass on TV. But they remained as low-key and self-effacing as ever, choosing to let Dr. Sin relate with the public figures who came to offer their condolences. How many other families of public personalities, who might not even enjoy a tenth of the prominence and power that the cardinal enjoyed, could boast the same sort of exemplary behavior? By their very demeanor, I think the Sin siblings have shown us a model by which to judge the families of other personages in power, a standard to which the families of public officials should be held even more strictly to, since their affinity to power came only by way of the people's mandate.

* * *

THIS early, the question has already been raised: Who will take the place of Jaime Cardinal Sin in the people's hearts and in leadership of the Church?

I think the answer is obvious. The new leaders of the Church were all to be found inside the Manila Cathedral yesterday: Ricardo Cardinal Vidal from Cebu, Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales, the other bishops and priests arrayed at the altar and around it, and the lay faithful who took part by their physical presence at Mass or by watching the proceedings on TV. In other words, the leadership of the Church falls on all of us members of the flock, regardless of the vocation we have been called to.

Such a figure as Cardinal Sin might not emerge for some time. The gifts of his personal charisma, leadership, prayerful life, courage and decisiveness rarely come together in one person. And even if they did, rarely does such a person find himself in the specific historical milieu that demands the exercise of these multifarious gifts.

So maybe it's time we stopped looking for this mythical "leader" who will lead us out of the darkness and mess of our own doing. As Bishop Soc said in his homily, the cardinal continues his call of "Vamos" (Let us go), but it is now up to us to discern the context of this call and decide on the directions we shall take.

RP pavilion at 1939 San Francisco expo

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

READERS have called my attention (and that of my editors) to a lapse in arithmetic in the last column which began with an indication of my age. I stated that my first visit to a world exposition was in Osaka for Expo '70 "25 years ago." This should have been 35 years ago. My mistake. But heck, one reason why I became a historian was that I wasn't good in math.

My description of the Philippine pavilion in the Aichi 2005 Expo is best compared with a description of the Philippine pavilion in the San Francisco Golden Gate Exposition that appeared in the September 1939 issue of the Philippine Magazine. That pavilion is long gone, but at least we have text to go with the pictures. Marjorie Burnett-Cramer wrote:

"The Pavilion is composed of an entrance room with two huge wings extending from it at right angles that follow the lake's outline. As one stands in the center of the room he can view the displays on both sides and see before him the beautiful lake with a native bridge leading to the Philippine band stand about fifty feet out in the water. Here the Philippine Constabulary band played, as well as the bands of various Filipino organizations in California. Lilies, lotus, and other water plants bloom in great profusion in the lake and along the shores, while adding to the scene are here and there graceful black swans.

"The building is of natural colored concrete, in the Malay style, as is the band stand, and is the only building on Treasure Island having a copper roof. It stands in a garden of bougainvillea, yellow daisies, and other tropical plants and shrubs. To the visitors the most unusual things about the exterior is the windows, the panes of which are of waferlike oyster shell [capiz windows]. Another interesting point is the carved doors. The weight of the four leaves of the front door is five tons.

"On entering the building the first thing that greets the eye in the center of the foyer is a pyramid of gold colored blocks, each block of a size to represent the gold output from the Philippines for various years… In the four corners of the room are life-size figures of Filipina maidens, one dressed in the mestiza evening dress, the second as a girl of the Igorot tribe from the Mountain Province, the third as a Moro girl, and the fourth in Christian Filipino peasant dress. [If I'm not mistaken these were the life-like wax creations of Guillermo Tolentino.] High on the wall overlooking all this is a huge relief map of the Philippines. This room, as throughout the Pavilion, is decorated with split bamboo matting (sawali), polished gigantic clam shells two feet and more in breadth, and tropical potted plants.

"Most of the visitors go into the right-wing first, as the panorama of the room is truly breath-taking. In the center are coils of Manila hemp, graduating from twine to mammoth coils of the largest hawsers used for mooring ships, and suspended from the ceiling above these are strips of brightly colored abaca cloth, with the ends fastened in a star pattern. On each side of this central grouping are tall slabs of every kind of native wood arranged in a zig-zag design and partitioning the sides into booths where are present the various displays.

"The first booth inside the doorway is that of the Philippine Tourist Bureau, where visitors are asked to register and where all questions about the Islands or the displays are answered. Large paintings of President Quezon and former High Commissioner McNutt are displayed, and in the place of honor between them is a slightly smaller than life-size picture of Dr. Jose Rizal. [Why, is Rizal smaller than Quezon?]"

That pavilion contains the usual things that have been in all Philippine pavilions from the 19th to the 21st centuries: paintings and sculptures by Filipino artists, ethnographic curios, samples of the natural resources of the islands, like metal, wood, shell, etc. and, of course, the end products, like a massive 12-foot dining table made of a single piece of narra and at the time valued at $1,000. This fabulous piece of furniture had six legs carved to resemble carabao hoofs. There were maps and miniature models of typical houses throughout the archipelago. Every branch of the Commonwealth government contributed to the display: the Department of Education had shelves of textbooks, while the Department of Agriculture and Commerce had a display of fresh or pickled fruits and vegetables, like catmon, balimbing, macopa, casoy, etc., unknown to Americans. One display was described thus:

"The room is like a miniature department store with tall pillars of shell illuminated by green lights dividing the counters into individual sections. There are offered for sale finely embroidered linens, beautiful screens of abaca cloth, slippers, dolls, candy, canned foods imported from the Islands, brass pieces, shirts [surely these were barong Tagalog], odd-looking rain helmets, pocketbooks, cigars—in fact, it seems that nothing has been missed in order to present a complete stock of all articles manufactured in the Archipelago. A bedroom suite of rattan causes a great deal of appreciative comment. A Filipino restaurant serving many kinds of native foods occupies the end of the room."

All of the products mentioned we still find in tourist shops today. Haven't we changed much since 1938?

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

Being good

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

WATCHING the President's act of contrition on television Monday night made me think of neuroethics and neurotheology.

Neuro what? Yes, they're new branches of sociobiology (socio what?) which suggest that human brains are wired for religion and ethics. Both neurotheology and neuroethics start with the proposition that our brains have a well developed cortex which allows us to think and to reason. Additional research, according to this "nature" camp (people who explain things mainly through biology), suggests that the brain also makes us feel good when we worship, and when we behave.

Are those arguments a bit too much for our brains? Let me try to simplify things, using a concrete case study. Yup, you guessed it, why not our usually religious and ethical President?

Feeling good

Close your eyes first and breath deeply. Your brain should be making you feel good now as you generate alpha waves to calm you down, maybe even theta waves, which is deeper relaxation. Careful now … before you go into delta waves, which is sleep, evoke memories of the President, deep in prayer, her eyes shut or looking toward the heavens. That shouldn't be difficult, given the way print and broadcast media have constantly featured her in that state.

From the perspective of neurotheology and neuroethics, we would say the President is not praying; rather she's induced a neurological state where her brain generates alpha and theta waves, bringing down her respiratory and heart rates and generally making her feel good, maybe even euphoric. Just like all of us other mortals, when she's stressed (and girl, is she stressed these days), she prays to get these happy brain tsunami.

Neuroethicists would say, too, that when we don't behave ethically, then we feel bad, which is why we are practically compelled to say sorry after we've been bad. Neuroethical and neurotheological arguments converge in the field of sociobiology, which says that even our social and cultural behavior are products of biological evolution, or a process of natural selection. Religion and ethics don't just make us feel good but also give us a competitive advantage in the struggle to survive. Richard Dawkins, one of the gurus of sociobiology, wrote an entire book, "The Selfish Gene," where he argued that even altruism, doing good for others, is the product of biological evolution since altruistic people stand better chances of survival and passing on their genes.

Learning to be good

Enter the the "nurture" camp (as opposed to the "nature" camp, the ones who believe biology is all). The nurturists say all this biological and genetic talk is nonsense, that religion and ethics are learned, part of culture. Watching the President in prayer, the nurturists would say it's classic *pakitang-tao*, all the way up to the scripted body language.

The "nurture" camp will go a step further and argue that if the President had been born into another culture, she'd have a different way of worshipping. If she were a Sunni Muslim and male, for example, she could become a dervish, whirling around and around and around in praise of God.

Sociobiologists would then counter: Now, why do you think the dervishes whirl? It's all in the brain, dummy, whirling, just like meditation, induces euphoria, even ecstasy.

The arguments could go on and on, and we haven't even tackled the question yet: So maybe it's the brain, maybe it's culture, but isn't there someone up there who we're praying to, and who makes us behave?

Ahh, but I'd argue that there are variations as well, even if there were some divine being up in the heavens, waiting for presidential prayers. Why, for example, does God have to be someone up there? Couldn't God be a She, roaming the earth among us?

It's the gray matter in our brains that makes us behave, our neuroethicists would argue. I'd say, let's look at the gray areas in ethics. Why is there so much variation across cultures, not just in defining what's good and bad, but also in the ways we are told to behave when we do misbehave.

The President's recent admission of a "lapse in judgement" and her contrition would therefore be seen as culturally scripted. Her advisers are counting on Filipinos being quick to forgive, quick to forget. Other societies' ethical standards would expect her to resign, or even to commit hara-kiri.

Practical ethics

In fairness (I'm being ethical), let me say that even the nature camp admits that culture provides a kind of template for the brain to act. Our brain responds in accordance with the way we were raised.

There's a practical side then to all this. We face a terrible moral crisis today, and it's time we thought of why we've ended up in this quagmire. For starters, we should be looking at how we teach ethics in our homes and schools. Clearly it's not with a view of feeling good: we admonish children to be good with threats of divine retribution, of hell. Every day, I hear some variation, from parents and *yaya*, "Behave, behave. *Sige*, God (or the policeman, or the teacher) will get angry at you."

No wonder Inday sweeps frantically, dust flying in the air, around the dining table as you take breakfast. That's *pakitang-tao*, or *pakitang-Diyos*, doing good only when we think someone or Someone is watching. Rather than using our cortex to reason and to think, our ethics is reduced to a matter of conditioning. Like Pavlov's salivating dog, we avoid misbehaving out of fear of punishment, and do good expecting praise and recognition.

Put another way, we strive to be "*mabait*", which is inadequately translated into "kind." "*Mabait*" actually means "good" but more in terms of public perception, and that perception may come even if the things we do aren't good. Our politicians only epitomize what our culture teaches about ethics: doing good only when there's a photo-op that goes with it.

And when caught doing wrong, insist you're right. When the evidence is overwhelming, then say I'm sorry. Sadly, contrition and absolution have been hit by inflation, and I blame it partly on our Catholic culture. Confession makes it too easy for us to get away with being bad. Say I'm sorry on TV and let's get on with life.

We need a new ethic that helps us see through the *pakitang-tao*, especially of our politicians. We need to start to pass that discernment to the next generation, teaching them to behave out of *kusa*, an exercise of free will which should include making amends after misbehaving. Doing good out of *kusa* means caring less about being *mabait*, than being *mabuti*, which is being good for goodness' sake. (Sorry for the early Christmas carol.)

Being good is transcending nature, learning that doing good shouldn't be because it makes us feel good. Being good transcends culture as well: what society tells us is good isn't always right.

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Ifugaos vs grandstanding pols

THE INQUIRER story on the Ifugao Power Plant was truly amazing. (PDI, 6/20/05) It strengthened my faith in people who, like our Ifugao brothers, prefer to do the best they can to serve their community, and at the same time preserve our heritage without depending on the government.

This has always been my belief: As a people we need to take the initiative in improving our standard of living and that of our own community, and we should not always ask for help from others, especially from the government. This can always be done, as has been shown by our Ifugao brothers.

I hope the INQUIRER will always give priority to such stories for publication, instead of those sickening and really annoying stories about our grandstanding politicians.

The story about the Ifugao Power Plant and similar stories will help increase and sustain the faith, the initiative and the positive outlook of our people. I hope to see the day when mainstream newspapers like the INQUIRER will just sideline the irritating news and stories about grandstanding politicians.

—ESPERANZA LIMCAUCO,
La Verne, California, USA

How competent is he on textbook 'errors'?

ANTONIO Calipjo Go subjected several textbook authors, the National Book Development Board, and the Ateneo English Department to trial by publicity through his paid advertisement. (PDI, 6/22/05) There is a proper forum to verify in a sober and orderly manner the "errors" he found in the textbooks of a publisher. Instead of lodging a formal complaint and going through proper procedures, he goes directly to the media which do not have copies of the textbooks and thus cannot verify the "errors."

Go makes a serious accusation against the Ateneo English Department, which is a CHED Center of Excellence, in saying that its experts "sanitized" the two English books they reviewed. Since Go is impugning the reputation of several institutions and textbook authors, it is legitimate to ask him to disclose his specific expertise, which makes him confident to declare that the whole series of textbooks in English, Science, Asian History, and World History are "very defective."

What is his educational background? Is he an active member of a professional organization of educators, besides being an academic supervisor of a relatively unknown school? An expert tapped by the NBDB to verify the "errors" in a History textbook has concluded that, in several instances, Go has been nitpicking, and some items are not errors, strictly speaking.

Also, for the sake of transparency and fair play, Go should disclose whether or not he has current or past connections to some publishers. Has he been, or is he, perhaps, a "consultant" of one or more publishers? Has he ever peddled his services to publishing companies for a fee? The textbook publishing business is very competitive, and some players have in the past engaged in dirty tactics.

Lastly, sectors like parents-teachers associations (PTAs) and professional academic associations have to do their part to ensure that our children and learners get good textbooks. The matter of quality books is too important to be left to the publishing industry, government, the public and private school administrators, and the media.

—DENNIS T. GONZALEZ, Ph.D.,
chair, National Book Development Board,
A. Ma. Regidor St., Area XI,
UP Diliman, Quezon City

Pensioners' bonuses and pension increases

THIS is in reference to the letter of the Government Service Insurance System to INQUIRER columnist Ramon J. Farolan, denying that survivorship pensioners have been excluded from past GSIS benefits.

Another letter dated Jan. 20, 2004, from GSIS branch manager Dominador P. Evangelista, informed us of the exclusion of survivorship pensioners from the granting by the GSIS board of trustees of the 2003 Christmas bonus and the 3.5-percent yearly pension increases effective January 2004.

As a result, my survivorship pensioner friends and I have not received our yearly Christmas bonuses since December 2003; neither have we received the 3.5-percent yearly increases in our monthly pensions since Jan. 1, 2004. As spouses of deceased GSIS members, we feel that we have also contributed in our own way, during their lifetime, to their GSIS monthly contributions. We are the sector that badly needs the pensions for support and medicines.

We ask for the revocation of Resolutions No. 284 and 286, both dated Nov. 19, 2003, and for the restoration of our past benefits. After all, the GSIS is now very financially stable.

—BEATRIZ S.A. URQUIOLA

An honorable way for GMA

THIS open letter is not intended to scare President Macapagal-Arroyo or anyone. Most Filipinos know that she is daring and courageous. But her courage alone is not enough to effectively solve the serious problems of our nation today.

If the present situation worsens, it will be the Filipino people who will again suffer the most. Consequently, nothing will be left of our once proud country.

And so, if I were in the President's shoes, I would readily and voluntarily vacate the presidency. And here is my reason.

Firstly, she was able to assume the presidency in January 2001 under highly questionable circumstances.

Secondly, it was widely perceived that she cheated her way to victory in the 2004 presidential elections and contributed to the death of Philippine democracy by spending the people's money.

And now, with the unstoppable graft and corruption in our midst, the involvement of the immediate members of her family—Representatives Mikey and Iggy Arroyo—in the so-called *jueteng* scandal, and the recently discovered evidence of rampant election fraud and irregularities in the last presidential elections, would she still have to wait for the aggrieved people to force her out of Malacañang?

The best and most honorable way out for the President is to immediately tender her resignation and voluntarily vacate Malacañang.

—RICARDO DEL SAN MIGUEL JR.,
San Diego Compound,
Barangay Palomar,
Dalahican, Cavite City

Lives are more than mouths to feed

THIS is in reaction to the column "Name-calling and hypocrisy" by Rina Jimenez-David. (PDI, 6/15/05) Name-calling is also the tactic of House Bill 3773, although in a stricter sense it is really name-beautifying. The proposed law calls something which has to do with an act whose consequence parents don't want to be responsible for—so the need for contraception—"responsible parenthood." It also gives the impression that parents embracing the two-child policy are more "responsible" than those who have more children, so the help for the responsible ones.

David challenged the "pro-lifers" to "ask whether they are for life in all forms, stages and ages." Is not conception a form of life? Is not contraception exactly that, opposing a stage in life? If the pro-lifers are just obsessed about the start and end of human life, they will not go as far as to point out that corruption has to be dealt with to attain the quality of life we all long for. I lament that there has been name-calling, but this should not be the sole ground for judging what is right and wrong. In fact, this is what should be pointed out, what is right or wrong, and not so much who is right or wrong.

As for Menchu Sarmiento's message of "no" to HB 3773 and "yes" to uncontrolled reproduction, to millions more malnourished retarded children, to jobless uneducated Pinoys, these happen because of mismanaged resources, inefficiency and shortage of skills, and because of the root of all the problems, which is corruption.

What the pro-lifers are advocating is that instead of such bills as HB 3773, we should come up with bills that will fight corruption; instead of using money for contraceptives that are more harmful than most people think, we should use the money to create jobs. Lives are not just mouths to feed. They are gifts of talents, of noble ideas—perhaps, more noble and gifted than what our generation can possibly offer.

—SHERRY CAPATI,
chzen_p@yahoo.com

'Civilian representative jury'

THIS is in reaction to an INQUIRER editorial and a column of Conrad de Quiros.

Let me make this short: Politicians and political power have gotten out of hand. They're undermining democracy. The people have lost their sovereign power. We are just the cattle that pay taxes.

My suggestion: In the new charter, allow for the forming of a civilian disciplinary entity that will have "direct"—not "indirect" (through plebiscite)—power to remove an elected official. This may be a first in the world, but as Filipinos, as former colonials, we should start learning from history. The philosophical foundation of such an entity is not hard to establish. Allow me to prescribe a preamble (note that this is just a preamble; let the constitutionalists work on the main body). Here it goes:

"Whereas, we cannot trust politicians anymore, but their existence remains necessary in any form of government; and since no administrative power was available in the past that could discipline the members of the voted elite and ensure their being nonpartisan and non-political in crucial issues of national import; in the interest of truth and for the safety of this nation's citizens, a representative jury is hereby created, which shall exercise civilian sovereign power with the power to sack any proven SOB official."

—BRIAN BROTARLO,
iloilobrianbrotarlo@yahoo.com

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Like his grandfather

OUR World War II veterans who are now in the twilight of their lives must have shed tears upon reading "New allies for veterans" (PDI, 5/23/05) by columnist Manuel L. Quezon III, grandson of the late Commonwealth president Manuel L. Quezon.

The grandson narrated that "I took the liberty of making an appeal to the American Jewish community to support Filipino veterans in their over half-a-century campaign to obtain the benefits due them." The grandson further said that "The world has already commemorated the 60th anniversary of the victory of the Allied Forces in Europe, and it will be celebrating the 60th anniversary of the victory in Asia. But for Filipino veterans of World War II, the goal of receiving what Franklin D. Roosevelt promised the full rights and benefits enjoyed by all those who served the American flag—remains elusive."

As a World War II guerrilla veteran myself, I could not but silently pray to our dear Lord Jesus Christ that his appeal would bear fruit.

And I say with certainty that the charisma, dynamism and benevolence of the former Commonwealth president, who helped the downtrodden during his incumbency, must have been inherited by his namesake and grandson, as could be gleaned from his words to the Jewish people: "[T]he long, and tragic story of how the US Congress had passed the Recission Act, depriving Filipino veterans of their benefits..."

May his tribe increase.

—GODOFREDO O. PETEZA,
district adjutant,
Veterans Federation of the Philippines,
Camarines Norte Veterans District,
Pasig, Daet, Camarines Norte

'People Power' against all politicians

READING the INQUIRER online is one way of updating myself on what is happening in the Philippines. As an overseas Filipino for the past 18 years, I always dream of going back to the Philippines and live there permanently after I retire. Sometimes, I wonder why I even bother to think of doing this when the economic and political situation there is getting worse by the day.

Frustrating especially are the articles about rival politicians looking into each other's closets for skeletons. I do not know how true the accusations they hurl against each other, but at the end of the day, the investigations that follow are just a waste of time and people's money (not to mention the moral and emotional strain they cause on the Filipino nation). Politicians are voted to make things better, not to accuse and find fault in each other. But I can't see if, as politicians, they ever spend time on worthwhile endeavors.

A few months ago, I read an article saying that the Philippines is the second most corrupt country in Asia. This only shows that the majority of the politicians, if not all of them, are guilty of graft and corruption. I believe, most of them sought their position only for personal gain, nothing more.

This makes me wonder why no one is whipping up People Power to fight corruption among politicians. They should stop accusing each other of corruption, after all, one is as guilty as the other. They should just do their job rather than waste time and money accusing each other.

—CLARO LUNA,
claroluna@paradise.net.nz

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60 teachers to lose mortgaged homes in GSIS housing program

By Russell Arador
PDI Central Luzon Desk

TARLAC CITY—Candida Tiglao, 65, retired from government service on June 6 after 24 years as a teacher at the Tarlac National High School here.

As a policy holder of the pension fund Government Service Insurance System (GSIS), she was supposed to receive an 18-month cash payment of P132,074.10 and a monthly pension of P7,337.45 immediately upon retirement, according to her retirement benefit voucher.

But she got nothing in cash payment and, worse, she would start to receive her monthly pension payments at age 75 or 10 years from now.

Reason: The GSIS clipped Tiglao's retirement benefits in order that these could be used for the settlement of the P353,000 housing loan she availed of in 1998.

Having accumulated interest charges amounting to P692,915.65, the loan, as of this month, has ballooned to more than P1 million.

"I'm retired, I've no savings, and now I have a huge amount of debt to pay," she said. To eke out a living, Tiglao began a food catering business.

She said she would not receive her monthly pensions for the first 10 years because these would automatically go to paying for the loan she obtained to buy a single-detached housing unit on a 118 sq.m lot at Teresa Homes, a mass housing project of the GSIS and a private developer in Barangay Tibag here.

She said she promptly sold the rights to the house when she saw it.

"It's cramped and built of sub-standard materials. My mother didn't like it," she said.

But the woman she sold the rights of the house to for P20,000 in 1998 did the same to another person in 2002. Tiglao and the new occupant signed a 2002 deed of assignment under whose terms the latter was to assume Tiglao's obligations to GSIS. The new occupant, however, did not pay Tiglao's monthly amortization.

"I gave GSIS a copy of the contract but it wasn't notarized. They must have lost it," she said.

Tiglao is not alone.

In this city, more than 60 public school teachers stand to lose their mortgaged houses, more than half of which are also in Teresa Homes and acquired through GSIS' Bahay Ko housing program.

In March, all of them received final foreclosure notices.

GSIS has already referred their cases to the Office of Government Corporate Counsel (OGCC).

In Tarlac, 800 to 900 teachers, majority of them residents of Teresa Homes, are protesting the "inhumane, unjust and anomalous changes in the GSIS housing program policy," according to the party-list group Anakpawis.

Anakpawis Rep. Crispin Beltran said the pension fund "is on a rampage collecting the arrearages."

11 killed, 23 wounded in Zamboanga clan war

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Eleven persons, mostly children and women, were killed when armed men fired at houses on stilts in Sitio Muldok in Barangay Lapaz in Alicia town, Zamboanga Sibugay on Monday night.

"It was a carnage, a massacre of innocent people," Chief Supt. Propero Noble, police director for Western Mindanao, said.

Noble said 13 others were brought to the Alicia District Hospital for treatment of gunshot wounds.

Maj. Gen. Gabriel Habacon, chief of the 1st Tabak Infantry Division, said the unidentified armed suspects were on board three motorized boats.

Habacon said 23 people were wounded.

"We could not yet ascertain their identities as we are busy evacuating the wounded to mainland Alicia for immediate medication," Brig. Emmanuel Cayton, 102nd Army Brigade commander, said.

Habacon said they dispatched two Huey helicopters to airlift the wounded.

Barangay Lapaz is an island village.

Noble said *rido* or clan war could be the motive for the massacre.

He said the conflict started on April 17 in Barangay Dawa-dawa when a member of the Ekong family was killed in an ambush.

On May 3, Lapaz village chair Kizmar Hari was invited by the Ekong family for a meeting in Dawa-dawa.

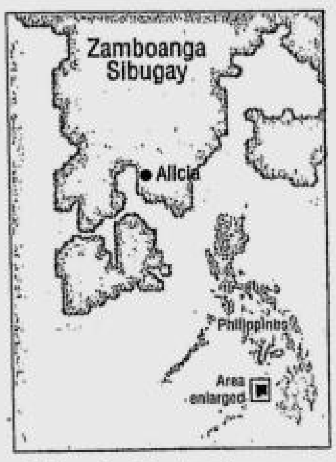
Hari and three relatives—Benzar Hari, Sherman Tahassam and Edris Balimbingan—went to the area but were ambushed.

Hari was killed while his companions escaped by swimming off the island.

The suspects were identified as members of the Ekong clan.

The crime will haunt the remote town for years.

The armed men launched the attack under cover of darkness.



"Of the 11 dead, only one was a man. The rest were women and children, but I can't tell you exactly how many were children and (how many were) women," said Chief Supt. Prospero Noble, chief of the Region 9 Police Office.

Most of the casualties were from the Ekong clan, which has been feuding with the Hari clan. Noble said investigators are looking at the feud as the most likely motive for the killings.

In Mindanao, bloody feuds between families is called "rido."

Some have been going on for years.

Barangay La Paz is an islet off the coast of Alicia town. The town itself is accessible only after around six hours of travel from Zamboanga City while the barangay is reached by about an hour's travel by boat.

Noble said the massacre took place after killings in the Ekong and Hari families.

On April 17, a member of the Ekong family was killed. Then on May 3, La Paz barangay chair Kismar Hari was killed. The suspects were at least six persons from the Ekong family.

Apparently, there had been earlier attempts to settle the feud peacefully, according to Noble.

The police official said Zamboanga Sibugay chief, Senior Supt. Rosseler Arieta, was in the barangay to personally oversee the investigation and keep the peace in the area.

Julie Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau and Luigi del Puerto in Manila

Teams formed to search for missing Japanese

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Police and rescue groups have launched a search for a Japanese business consultant who disappeared on Boracay Island more than two weeks ago.

Chief Insp. Jack Wanky, head of the Boracay Special Protection Unit, said the teams were conducting a search throughout Boracay and neighboring islands for Shoji Uchimura.

The Coast Guard and rescue groups were also searching the waters around the island for the Japanese businessman.

Uchimura, 55, disappeared on June 11, two days after he checked in at the Lorenzo Grand Resort in Sitio Cagban in Manoc-Manoc village, Wanky told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

A staffer of the resort last saw him walking alone to the beach along Cagban Road, 700 meters from the resort. He was wearing denim pants, a colored striped shirt and black Puma rubber shoes.

He had his single-occupancy room reserved until June 12, the day he was scheduled to take an afternoon flight to Manila. But Uchimura failed to take the flight when the resort staff checked his airline.

Wanky said the hotel supervisor, Anne Margaret Pelingon, reported Uchimura missing only on June 15 after they confirmed that he failed to take his scheduled flight.

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we will always give.

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You have always assured us:
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And we will always carry your love
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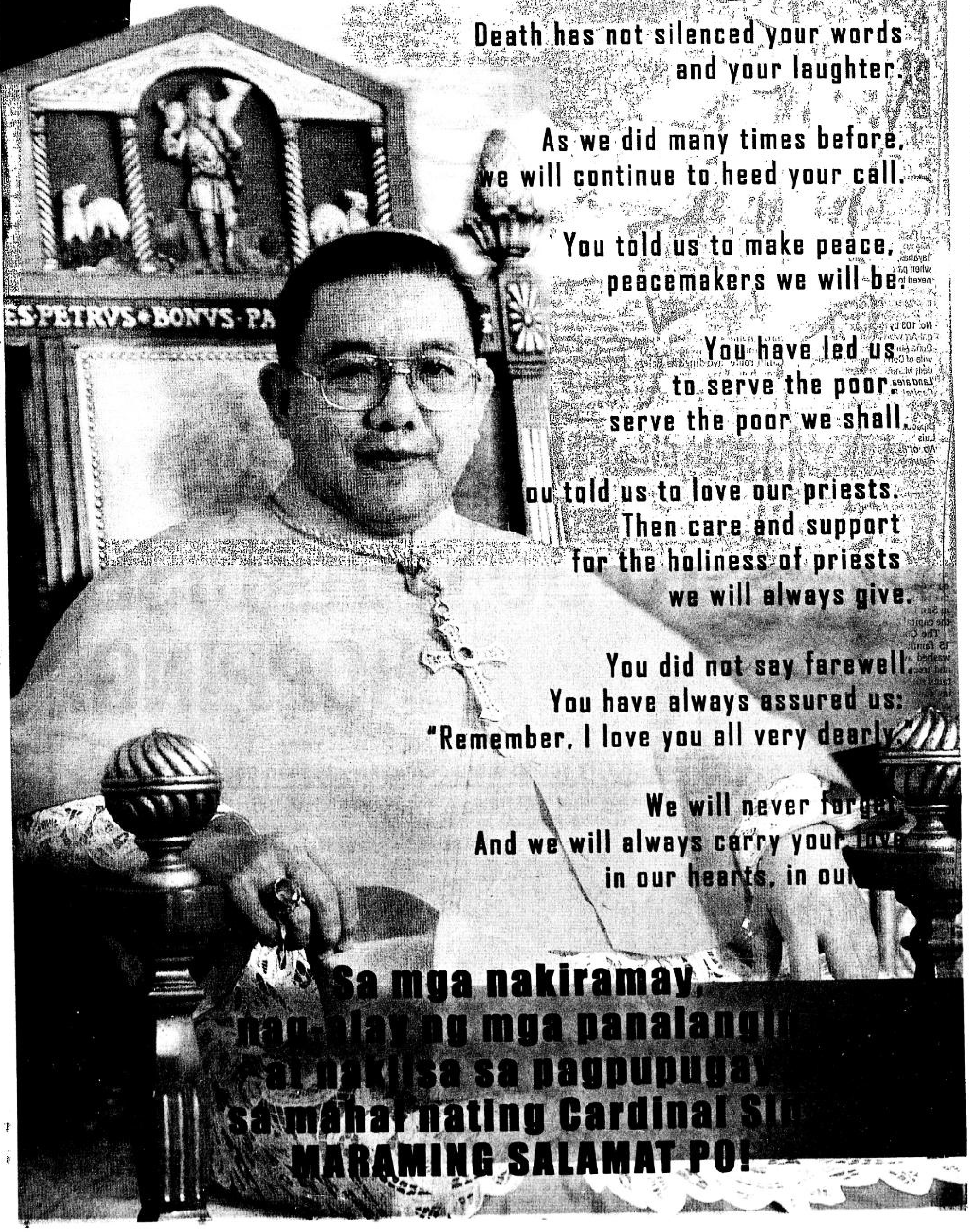

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Is Aurora ready for another disaster?

By Tonette Orejas
Baler, Aurora

FOR SURVIVORS of the Nov. 23-30, 2004 flash floods and landslides in Aurora, the province is not yet ready to take another beating from nature's forces.

Gov. Bellaflor Angara-Castillo said the province, seven months after the disaster struck, was not yet ready in the degree she wanted.

The floods and landslides left 139 people dead, 146 hurt, 56 missing and presumed dead, 2,210 families homeless, and P565 million worth of damage to public structures and agriculture in Aurora.

IN THE KNOW

Aurora
Location: Eastern side of Luzon, bordered by Isabela and Quirino on the north; Nueva Ecija and Nueva Vizcaya on the west; Bulacan and Quezon on the south; and the Pacific Ocean on the east.
History: Originally named Tayabas, later called El Principe when part of Nueva Ecija; annexed to Quezon province to which it was separated in 1979; transferred to Central Luzon in 2002 through Executive Order No. 103 by President Macapagal-Arroyo. Renamed after Doña Aurora Aragon Quezon, wife of Commonwealth President Manuel L. Quezon.
Land area: 3,239.5 sq km
Capital: Baler
Towns: Baler, Casiguran, Dilasag, Dinalungan, Dingalan, Dipaculao, Ma. Aurora, San Luis
No. of Barangays: 152
Population: 173,797
Economy: Agricultural (rice and copra)
Source: Presidential Commission for the Central Luzon Growth Corridor

Survivor Dionisia Gonzaga is still filled with uncertainties. She and her husband Gaudencio rebuilt their hut on what was left of the banks of the Ditumabo River in San Luis town, 14 km west of the capital Baler.

The Gonzagas are among the 15 families whose houses were washed away by water, boulders and trees rolling from the mountains south of the town, according to village councilwoman Angelita Herminigildo.

Dionisia's 3,000 pineapple plants and Gaudencio's 20 coconut trees were also swept away and buried by debris.

"[The disaster] made us poorer," Dionisia said on Sunday as she washed a neighbor's pile of dirty clothes. On the side, she sells vegetables and fruits grown by other farmers.

Gaudencio was unable to resume farming near the watershed as the government banned agricultural activities there. They could not save money for the hard times.

They would not have returned to the village, Dionisia said, had the "core housing project" of the government been finished. Herminigildo said the project had not been completed due to lack of funds.

"When you're poor, you don't have enough means to bounce back and be ready for another calamity," Dionisia said.

Like the Gonzagas, farmer Briccio Villareal knows he lives in harm's way. His techniques for survival? "Stay alert when it rains. And run away from the river," he said.

Exodus

In Diteke, 35 km west of Baler, 10 families in the Negrito tribe of Alta left for safe places, like Quirino, their leader Regino Sindac said.

Only 30 families stayed in Diteke, which is bound by two rivers. The banks have not been fortified with dikes. The village's only bridge, its lifeline to the capital, had been fitted with temporary approaches. "We can be cut off [from the town center] and we can't get help," Sindac said.

Some members of the tribe stayed to defend their domain from mining firms. "The last disaster almost erased the entire village. We can't lose more of our land," Sindac said.

Income is not enough from gathering *yantok* (rattan) or weaving baskets, which is why they can't stack up on provisions.

They have identified the village's day care center as refuge when disaster strikes. Sindac said they would have to rely on outside help when another catastrophe comes.

Wiped out

The Nov. 30 landslides wiped out three of the five sitios in Barangay Villa in Maria Aurora town, 52 km west of Baler.

The landslides killed 10 people and washed out 300 houses, the bridge, a school, a day care and barangay centers and the eateries and stores at the Nature's Park in the village.

"If the disaster happened at night or at dawn, we would all have been killed," said village chief Henry Padilla. What happened, he said, was a window to what might again strike Villa.

The residents have resumed selling food to travelers, but the problem is too few people pass through the village. Many take the Pantabangan (Nueva Ecija)-Canili route, avoiding the Baler-Bongabon Road where many parts are landslide-prone.

Classes have resumed, care of a school built by the GMA Kapuso Foundation. Farming and vending are still not viable; houses are still being built using logs left by the disaster.

Trouble in Dingalan

In the southern town of Dingalan, where 95 percent of the deaths occurred and the worst of landslides struck, victims have returned to the worst hit village of Paltic as resettlement proceeded at a snail's pace.

The more than 100 families at the town's gymnasium have been told to leave this month to give way to a social event. Left with no other option but to return to Paltic, they insisted on pitching tents around the gym.

"Officials are pushing us to death," fisherman Bien Guia said.

The murder of journalist Philip Agustin on the heels of his reports on alleged misuse of calamity funds by Mayor Jaime Ylarde has become an unsettling background to the disaster.

Farmer-leader German Astrera said the victims are certainly unprepared for another disaster of similar or even less magnitude as washed-out logs have gone to traders and as the rehabilitation of farms got little or no funding at all.

Struggle

Natural hazards exist in Aurora, Governor Castillo said. Hemmed by the Sierra Madre and Caraballo mountain ranges, the province is sure to catch large volumes of water.

More landslides are bound to happen as the eroded mountains have yet to heal, Castillo said.

Not enough money came to fund the province's emergency and rehabilitation activities that cost almost P1 billion, she said.

The Angaras put to good use their network, raising grants when the national government promised only P5 million.

What have been done so far were the improvement of the Canili road to prevent isolation from the rest of Central Luzon, construction of a bridge and dikes in San Luis to make the capital accessible, and fortification of banks at the Pudok River to save Baler from floods.

A P1.2-million patrol boat will come in handy for the evacuation of residents in seven coastal towns. A warning and communication system against flash floods and landslides, as well as tsunamis expected at this side of the Pacific Ocean, has not been installed.

"The problem really is we do not have the means to buy all that we actually need for what you call a readiness for disaster," Castillo said.

She said another disaster would set back efforts to get Aurora out of the league of 20 poorest provinces in the country.

Forest protection has been a good part of preparedness, but some officials and those in the wood industry are lobbying for the resumption of logging. The total log ban stopped them on their tracks, and pressure remains as more than 1,000 people in northern Aurora alone are out of jobs.

Joey Estriber, secretary of the Multi-Sectoral Action Group of Aurora, has urged the Angaras to stick to their avowed policy of ecological protection that would be more beneficial in the long term.

"Logging per se is not a danger. Illegal logging is the cause because you do not pay attention to the safeguards that you are supposed to undertake," Castillo said, citing the case of Dingalan.

What is not lost on her people is optimism and courage to survive, she said. "The past calamity was not only a challenge but also an awakening event for all of us."

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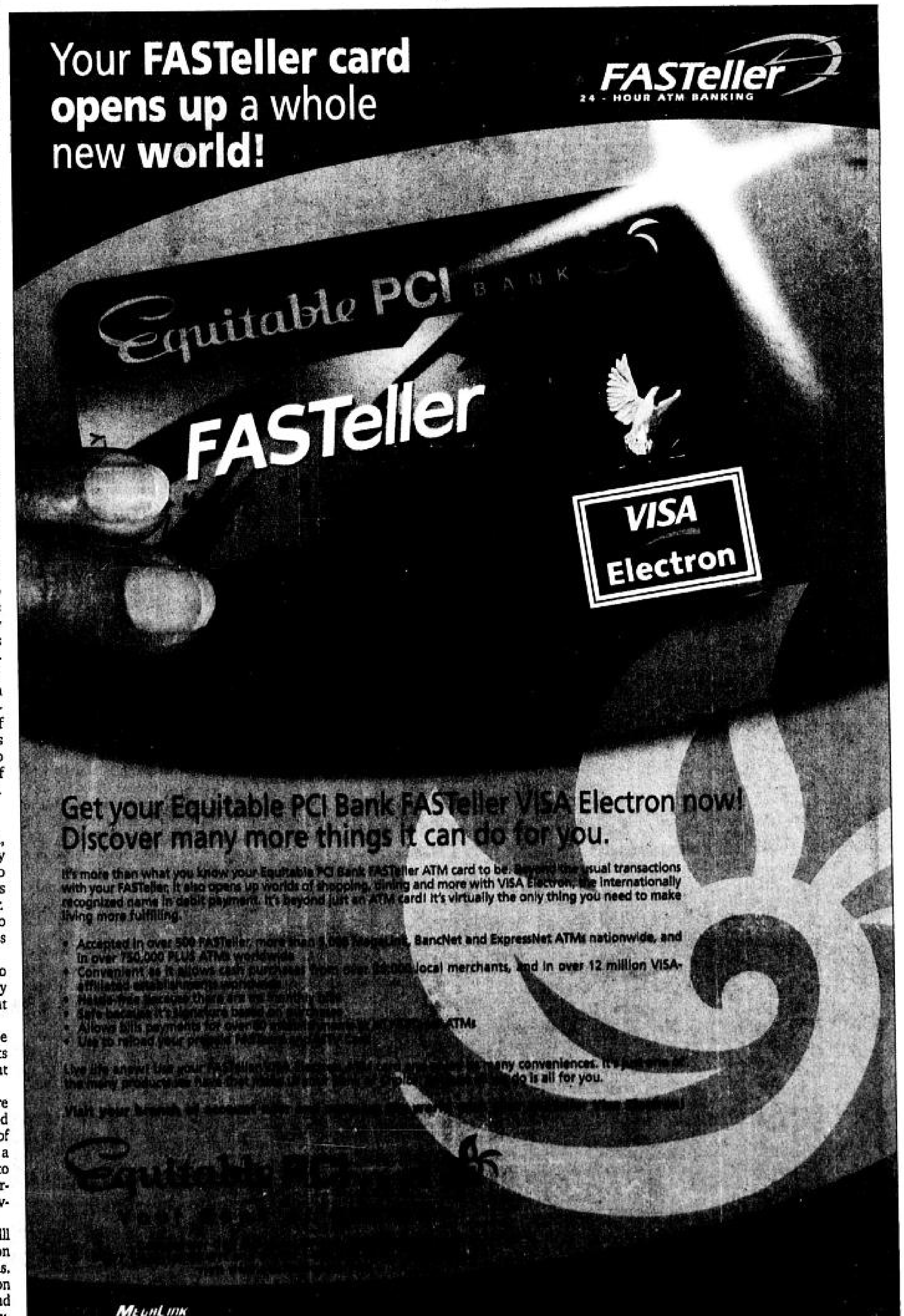
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NPA says attack meant to shame N. Cotabato gov

KIDAPAWAN CITY—North Cotabato Gov. Emmanuel Piñol was right—the New People's Army (NPA) attack on a police station in Magpet town on Sunday was meant to embarrass him.

This as the NPA owned the attack which resulted in the disarming of policemen manning the station.

The attack, the NPA said, was designed to shake Piñol's "dirty political maneuverings and bare-faced bully tactics against the people."

"The top despotic bureaucrat of North Cotabato and his brother [Magpet mayor Efren Piñol] are understandably stunned because this is a strong slap on their faces," said Rigoberto Sanchez, spokesperson of the Merardo Arce Command of the NPA's Southern Mindanao Regional Operations Command.

Sanchez cited the efforts of the provincial government to allow transnational corporations to operate in many areas of the province.

Investments like these are seen by the communist movement as a form of development aggression and anti-poor.

"Piñol's programs of aggressive big agri-business expansion only seek to perpetuate his corrupt and coercive anti-people warlord rule," said Sanchez, who also deplored the governor's support for a *lumad* [indigenous peoples] paramilitary group called Bagani.

On Monday, PNP Director Arturo Lomibao ordered an investigation of the attack, including possible lapses on the part of the police.

"If indeed there were lapses ..., sanctions would be imposed," said Lomibao during a visit in Magpet, hours after the attack.

Over 30 rebels arrived at the police station aboard three L-300 vans and informed policemen that they were turning over a handcuffed man. The rebels later drew their guns and ordered the policemen to hand over their firearms.

The attack happened while Magpet police chief, Insp. Wilfredo Perocho, was on an official trip in Iloilo.

Reports said the police recovered two of the 24 firearms [not 29 as earlier reported] taken by the rebels.

Lomibao said government forces also recovered documents left behind by the rebels.

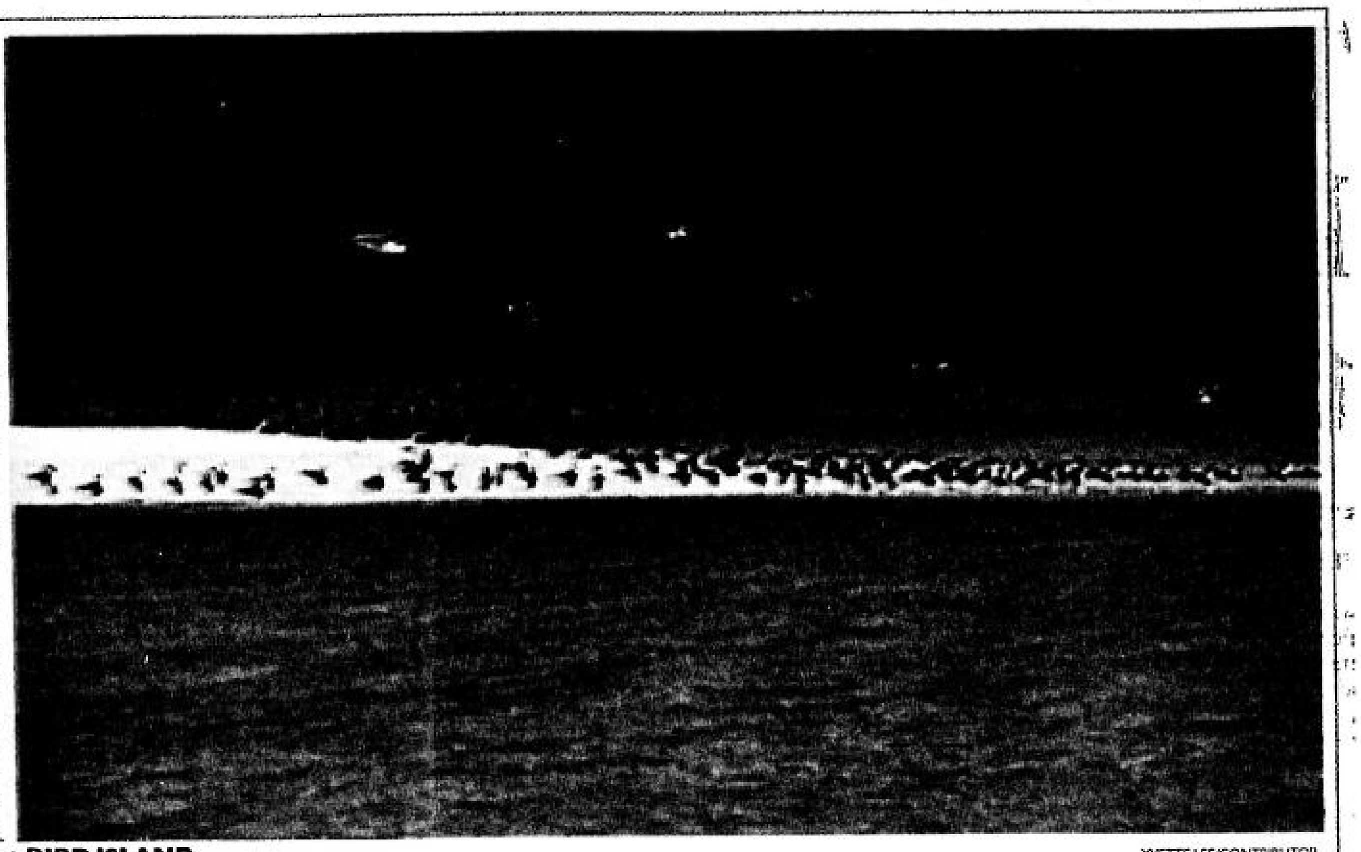
Meanwhile, Mayor Efren Piñol said contrary to earlier reports, the rebels did not seize village official Silverio Bafilar.

"He [Bafilar] told me that he was not taken by the suspects. He was only asked if he could guide them because they were not familiar with the terrain. He refused," Mayor Piñol said.

Brig. Gen. Agustin Dema-ala, chief of the Army's 6th Infantry Division, said the suspects could still be in Magpet.

"The only way out is the national highway and for them [NPA rebels] to take the Mt. Apo terrain would be difficult and risky," he said.

Members of the regional police mobile force and troops from the 602nd Infantry Brigade have been mobilized to track down the suspects believed to be led by a certain Iloy of the NPA Front 51. *Jeoffrey Maitem, Jeffrey Tupas and Charlie Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



BIRD ISLAND YVETTE LEE/CONTRIBUTOR

The Tubbataha Reef National Marine Park, located in the middle of the Sulu Sea, has been described as the apex of Philippine Dive Sites. The Tubbataha Management Office recently announced an increase in divers' fees to P3,000 for both local and foreign visitors. The increase was necessary to cover the increased fuel costs for patrolling this 33,200 hectare marine reserve. Divers' fees make up 20 percent of the total amount needed to protect this Unesco World Heritage Site.

Cerebral malaria claims another victim in GenSan

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Another victim of cerebral malaria died Saturday here as the number of residents hit by the disease continues to rise, village chair Delia Rabanes said yesterday.

Rabanes identified the latest fatality as Jessie Sipagan, 48 and a resident of Purok Lorenzo.

She said a day after Sipagan died, six other people were rushed to the government-run City Integrated Hospital (CIH), bringing to at least 50 the number of malaria cases recorded in the village since the outbreak was detected two weeks ago.

On Monday last week, the village was placed in a state of calamity to enable officials to use their five percent calamity fund.

But Rabanes said the P330,000 calamity fund has yet to be released by the City Treasurer's Office.

Rabanes said he fears that the number of malaria cases could rise because of lack of medicine.

She said many patients go to her to ask for medicine and the barangay was forced to open a credit line with a drug company just to cope with the need for medicines.

But city health officer Virginia Ramirez said they were not running out of medicines for malaria.

She said people who suspect they contracted the disease might not have been given medicines because they have not been properly examined yet.

"Precautions must be observed in taking anti-malaria drugs to avoid kidney and liver damage," Ramirez said.

Ramirez said so far, only 31 people, out of the 84 cases of fever referred to the CIH, turned positive for malaria.

Ramirez said personnel from the Department of Health in Manila arrived here Tuesday to investigate.

In Zamboanga City, health officials said they were alarmed at the sharp increase in the number of people afflicted by another deadly mosquito-borne disease—dengue.

Dr. Rodel Agbulos, city health officer, said from January to June 27, there were already 608 cases of dengue monitored in the city.

Agbulos said six victims had died. *Aquiles Zonio, Julie Alipala and Grace Cantal-Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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FAST FACTS:
The combination of Immunoglobulin E antibody (IgE) and exposure to environmental allergens usually leads to symptoms of allergic disease, including allergic asthma.

Group says road crash RP's 3rd child killer

By Allan Macatuno
PDI C. Luzon Desk

OLONGAPO CITY—At least 263 Filipino children aged 14 years old and below are being killed or injured in road crashes everyday, data gathered by a group promoting child safety in the country showed.

Officials of the Safe Kids Philippines (SKP), a non-government organization working to prevent accidental childhood injuries, said unintentional injuries are the third leading killer of children in the Philippines.

Alarmed by this situation, the SKP on Friday launched here its child pedestrian safety campaign dubbed "Walk this Way," a global joint project with the international courier Federal Express.

The group has gathered health and safety experts, educators and volunteers to teach pedestrian safety.

"At Safe Kids, we have been working to reduce accidental injuries in our country since 2003," said Maria Theresa Perez, executive director of SKP.

She said President Macapagal-Arroyo has declared the third week of June as "National Safe Kids Week" and it would be dedicated to support safety programs for children.

"We are so thrilled that the government recognizes the importance of protecting our children," Perez said during the program launching here.

According to Dr. Rafael Consunji, Safe Kids director for Asia operations, the government's support for the program is an important step in educating the public.

ROUNDUP

Cebu's top robber held

CEBU CITY—The police have arrested the most wanted man in Central Visayas, who has been tagged in at least 15 major robbery cases in Metro Cebu since 2004. Roel "Rey" Torres, 36, was wounded in the left leg in a gunfight with Cebu City-based policemen on June 14 in Barangay Monte Alegre, Aurora town in Zamboanga del Sur. The police team headed by Supt. Paul Labra II, Criminal Intelligence and Investigation Bureau, went to Zamboanga del Sur after receiving a tip that Torres was frequently seen in his hometown in Ramon Magsaysay. Labra said they tried to stop the motorcycle that had Torres on board with two companions in Monte Alegre but Torres allegedly fired at them with his .45 cal. pistol. The police returned fire and hit Torres in the leg. *Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Lightning kills pa, son

BACOLOD CITY—Lightning killed a 47-year-old man and his son in Hacienda Niña, Barangay Sta. Cruz, Murcia, Negros Occidental at about 6:30 p.m. on Thursday. Rolando Arsegas was in his kitchen cooking dinner while his son Eugene, 17, was standing beside him when lightning struck and hit the house's electrical wire that electrocuted the father and son. They were rushed to the Corazon Locsin Montelibano Memorial Regional Hospital in Bacolod City where they were declared dead on arrival, police reports said. *Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Guard kills 3 robbers

MEYCAUAYAN, Bulacan—A security guard fought off six robbers, killing three of them inside a Bulacan-bound van cruising along the North Luzon Expressway here on Friday night. Supt. Fernando Villanueva, police chief, said Crispin Ruiz, 46, a security guard of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and a resident of Malolos City, shot the robbers after they divested the van's seven passengers of their belongings at 11 p.m. along the NLEx's section in Barangay Langka. Villanueva said one of the suspects stabbed Ruiz in the left arm. Police said the bodies of the slain suspects were taken to the Gomez Funeral Homes here. Three suspects escaped. Villanueva said police recovered two .38 cal. pistols and the passengers' money and cellular phones from the slain suspects. *Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

School principal shot dead

SAN MANUEL, Isabela—A school principal was shot and killed by three armed men in Barangay Mararigue here on June 20. Police said Santiago Sevillana Jr., 48, principal of the Malalinta Elementary School, was on his way to school aboard his motorcycle when the armed men aboard another motorcycle shot him. Supt. Felix Dayag, Isabela police spokesman, said Sevillana, although wounded, was able to run for a few meters but the suspects chased him and again shot him in the head and body. *Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

P3M in goods lost in fire

TARLAC CITY—Goods worth at least P3 million were destroyed in a fire that hit a shoe store on F. Tañedo Street here on Tuesday. Investigators said the fire began at past 8 p.m. and was placed under control an hour later. Reports said the fire started in a stockroom on the mezzanine of the Footluckers shoe store in Barangay Poblacion. *Russell Arador, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Book on good gov't launched

CANDELARIA, Quezon—Candelaria Vice Mayor Ferdinand Maliwanag distributed free copies of his publication "Mga Munting Bayani ng Bayan," a handbook on good government, during the book's launch recently. The author urged all government officials and employees to return to good, clean and honest public service practice. In the book, he encouraged the people's active participation in all affairs of the government and said that every Filipino has an equal chance to prove his worth. *Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Text notes link wife to murder

By DJ Yap

THE TEXT messages did her in.

Leonora Auxtero-Magrare, 42, was charged yesterday with parricide for the murder of her estranged husband Alejandro, 45, after her son reportedly read text messages about the plot on her cell phone.

Magrare was charged before the Quezon City prosecutor with Allan Gammad, 29, who allegedly planned the killing with her.

The body of Alejandro, a tricycle driver, was found riddled with bullets inside the sidecar of his vehicle last June 25 along San Mateo Road in Barangay Batasan Hills.

During the investigation, Magrare's son Mark Joseph told police that a day before his father's body was discovered, his mother sent him to buy cell phone credits for her mobile phone.

On the way to the store, he turned on the phone and was shocked to read certain sent messages that seemed to allude to a murder plot.

Mark recalled one such message as saying: "*Kung hindi mo kaya ay sa iba ko na lang ipapatrabaho* (If you can't do it, I'll ask somebody else to do the job)."

Another read: "*Pag sumama iyong kabit sa biyahe ay isama mo na* (If the mistress joins the ride, take her as well)."

When Mark confronted his mother about the messages, she said they meant nothing and deleted the messages, he said.

He also told police that his parents often quarreled, which sometimes ended with his mother threatening his father: "*Ipapapatay kita* (I will have you killed)."

Central Police District Criminal Investigation Division chief Procopio Lipana said they based the charges against Magrare on the son's statement.

Meanwhile, Gammad was charged based on witness testimonies.

A stepdaughter of Alejandro told police that she saw Magrare and Gammad talking two days before the incident.

She said she saw Magrare pointing to Alejandro's house in Barangay Pasong Tamo, while Gammad nodded.

A tricycle driver also identified Gammad as the same man who approached him days before the incident, asking about Alejandro.

Gammad told the tricycle driver that he wanted to hire Alejandro as a driver.

When the witness pointed out that he himself was a driver, Gammad reportedly insisted he wanted only to hire Alejandro.

Lipana said that although no one saw the actual killing, he expressed belief that they had a strong case against Magrare and Gammad, who were arrested in follow-up operations hours after the discovery of Alejandro's body.

Both suspects opted to remain silent. No bail was recommended for them.

Assassin guns down Korean in Antipolo

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

THE FIRST shot missed. But his killer gave chase and made sure Korean businessman Sae Kyoo Park, 57, was dead.

Park was driving his owner-type jeep on Quezon Extension in Barangay Dalig, Antipolo City, at about 11:30 a.m. yesterday when two men on a red motorcycle blocked his path, police said.

One of the men, armed with a 9-mm handgun, opened fire at Park but missed.

Park got out of his jeep and ran, but the two men gave chase.

The gunman opened fire again. This time, two bullets hit Park in the head, killing him instantly.

The killer and his companion then immediately escaped, leaving Park sprawled on the ground.

Revenge could have motivated the killing, said city police chief Primitivo Tabujara.

According to Tabujara, the victim was facing murder and attempted murder charges and was only out on bail.

However, police are not discounting the possibility that the killing was business-related.

Park was a supplier of surplus appliances.

Markova, 'comfort gay,' dies in traffic accident

By Margaux C. Ortiz

THE CELEBRATED "comfort gay" is gone.

Walter Dempster Jr., popularly known as "Walterina Markova," died of severe head injuries after he was hit by a motorcycle Friday in Manila, according to Popular Morgue funeral director Leonides Dychangco.

Dychangco said Dempster's remains lie at his relative's house at 563 San Francisco St., Manuyo I, Las Piñas City.

Dempster was portrayed by comedian Dolphy Quizon in the award-winning film "Markova: Comfort Gay" in 2001.

The film showed that during the Japanese occupation, Dempster and his fellow performers were mistaken for women. As punishment for their "deception," they were quartered in a barn and sexually abused by Japanese soldiers.

Dempster had stayed at "Home for Golden Gays," a retirement home for homosexuals run by Pasay Councilor Justo Justo.

Cops nab Caloocan's No. 2 most wanted

AUTHORITIES yesterday announced the arrest of the second most wanted person in Caloocan City.

Police said Rogelio Buenviaje, 33, of 702 Fishpond Maypajo Street, Sawata, had been wanted since 1996 for theft, and had been convicted of murder and drug pushing in 2004.

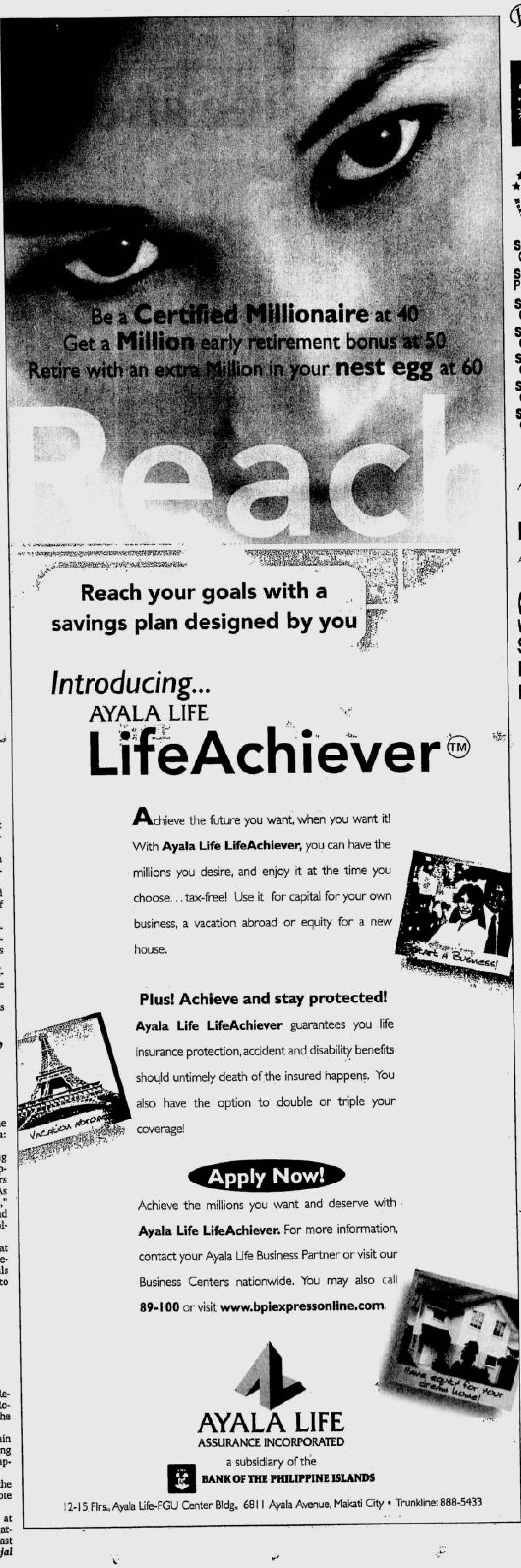
He is also the purported leader of a notorious crime gang.

Three different warrants of arrests were issued against him by Judges Thelma Aguirre and Victorino Alvaro of the Caloocan Regional Trial Court, and Judge Romanito Amatong of the Metropolitan Trial Court.

Police said Buenviaje again tried to evade arrest by running away when he saw lawmen approaching.

"We caught up with him in the next street," SPO2 Celito Escote said.

Buenviaje was arrested at Damaka, Sawata Area 1, Dagat-dagatan, at about 2 p.m. last Monday. *Nancy C. Carvajal*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Continente: Free after 16 years in jail

By Jocelyn R. Uy

A BLUE bag and release papers in hand, Donato Continente finally walked out of the New Bilibid Prisons (NBP) in Muntinlupa City yesterday morning a free man.

Continente, 43, one of two men convicted for the ambush-slaying of United States Army Col. James Rowe in 1989, was released at 8:30 a.m. yesterday from the NBP after serving 16 years in jail.

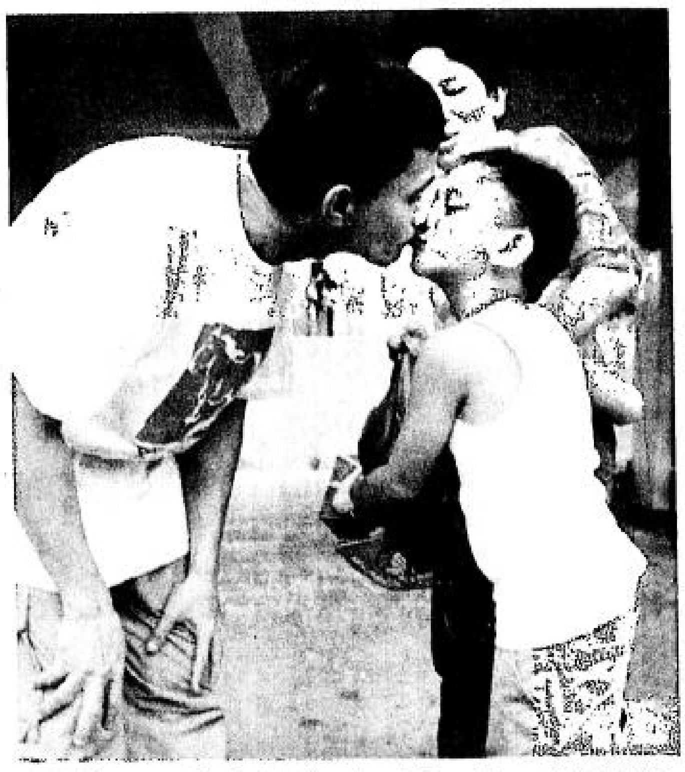
Reacting to Continente's release, the US Embassy said in a statement that the sentence was "too short for such a crime," even as it said it had accepted the decision of the Supreme Court to lower his jail term.

Upon his release, Continente vowed he would join his wife Imelda, a member of the human rights group Karapatan, in fighting for the release of political prisoners. He also told reporters that he was ready to become a full-time father to his son Jolo, 6.

"I can now take him around and we can eat together at his favorite fast food outlet, which were two of his requests when I was still in jail," he said.

Imelda and Jolo fetched him from the prison yesterday morning, together with members of Karapatan, Bayan Muna and Bayan-Munti who waved welcome streamers outside the NBP.

Continente's parents, Milagros and Romulo, were also on hand to welcome their son.



HAPPY homecoming for Continente, who is met by son Jolo and wife Imelda after his release from prison yesterday. JOAN BONDOC

Happy together

"Now, I am truly happy," said Imelda. In a previous interview with the INQUIRER, she had said that she would only rejoice when she sees her husband walk out of the NBP with his release papers.

"Now that he is free, we can go home to Cavite as a family," she added.

The US Embassy, however, made it clear that it was not only the "short" sentence it was not happy about.

"The murder of Col. James Nicholas Rowe, who was helping the Philippines fight terrorism, is an appalling crime. At that time, the United States government stated its satisfaction with the life sentence given the two gunmen," the embassy said in its statement.

"The Philippine Supreme Court later ruled that Mr. Continente, as an accomplice, serve the 14 years he is concluding now," it added.

"We believe 14 years is too short for such a crime. We accept the action of the Philippine judicial system. We note that the actual murderer, Juanito Itaas, will continue to serve a life sentence."

Continente was initially convicted as a principal in the murder of Rowe on April 21, 1989.

During the alleged ambush, Rowe's driver Joaquin Vinuya was hurt, but survived. For this, Continente was also charged with frustrated murder. He was later given a life sentence on Feb. 27, 1991.

But the sentence was commuted to 14 years when the Supreme Court, upon review, ruled on Aug. 25, 2000, that he was only an accomplice in the killing of Rowe.

Continente was also recommended for release thrice under the Ramos administration's amnesty program in January 1993, by the Presidential Review Committee secretariat; in June 1993, by the Department of Justice, and in 1994, by the Presidential Committee for the Grant of Bail, Release on Pardon and Parole.

But Continente remained behind bars, allegedly because of pressure from the US government.

However, there were some things he would miss from prison which became his home for 16 years, he said.

For one—his friends, political prisoners like him, and his daily discussions with them which helped a lot in seeing him through all 16 years of his stay at the NBP.

Earlier, he told the INQUIRER that his interaction with other prisoners enabled him to gain a deeper understanding of society and politics.

"The new detainees were the ones who would update us about what was happening outside," he said.

"I would really like to thank them," he said, adding that on the eve of his release, he and his friends marked the occasion with a little gathering where they were served *pansit* (noodles) and *ginataan* (bananas in coconut milk).

His time inside the prison would be remembered through the two organizations he helped put up: Pluma, an organization of writers, and Kulay or Kultura at Layunin, an artists' society.

Kulay was established in 1998 and later became one of the subjects in the Bureau of Correction's nonformal education program, he told the INQUIRER.

"I will miss my friends. But now that I am free, it's my turn to help them," he said.

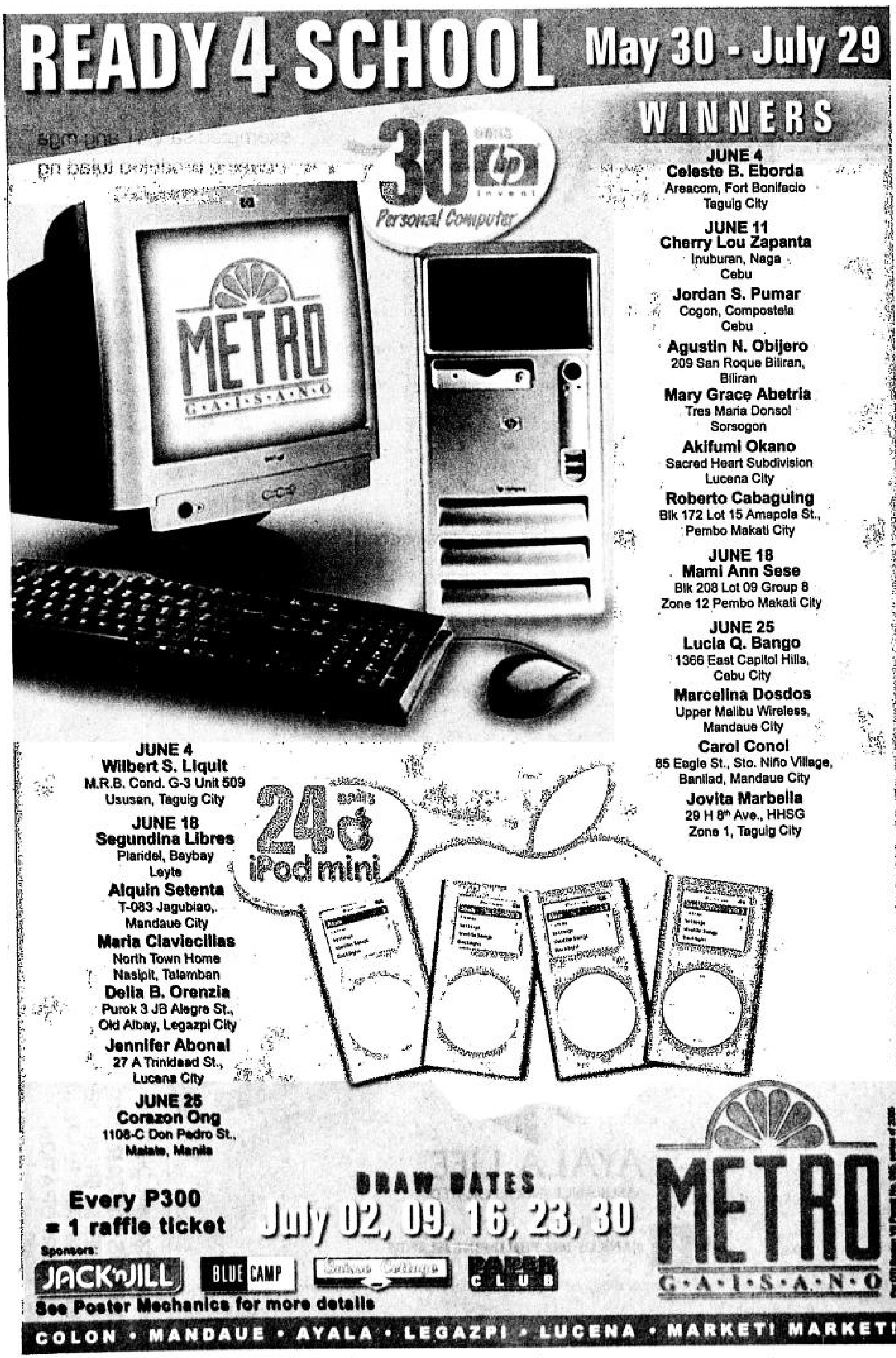
His long detention did not break the man: His principles and self-dignity remain steadfast as he promised to continue fighting for the release of the 260 political prisoners in the country.

There are 38 political prisoners in the NBP alone.

Continente also never wavered in his advocacy for people's rights. "I could not erase that from my thoughts. Because if I did, it was as if the government had succeeded in stifling my political beliefs," he added.

True to form

Still outspoken and critical of the government after all these years, Continente also called on the government to implement the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law, which had been approved by the National Democratic Front of the Philippines and the Government of the Republic of the Philippines principals in 1998. *With Nikko Dizon*



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JUNE 11
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Cebu

Jordan S. Pumar
Cogon, Compostela
Cebu

Agustin N. Obijero
209 San Roque Biliran,
Biliran

Mary Grace Abetria
Tres Maria Donsol
Sorsogon

Akifumi Okano
Sacred Heart Subdivision
Lucena City

Roberto Cabaguing
Blk 172 Lot 15 Amapola St.,
Pembo Makati City

JUNE 18
Mami Ann Sese
Blk 208 Lot 09 Group 8
Zone 12 Pembo Makati City

JUNE 25
Lucia Q. Bango
1366 East Capitol Hills,
Cebu City

Marcelina Dosdos
Upper Malibu Wireless,
Mandaue City

Carol Conol
85 Eagle St., Sto. Niño Village,
Banilad, Mandaue City

Jovita Marbella
29 H 8th Ave., HHSG
Zone 1, Taguig City

JUNE 4
Wilbert S. Liquit
M.R.B. Cond. G-3 Unit 509
Ususan, Taguig City

JUNE 18
Segundina Libres
Plaridel, Baybay
Leyte

Alquin Setenta
T-083 Jagubiao,
Mandaue City

Maria Claviecillas
North Town Home
Nasipit, Talamban

Delia B. Orenzia
Purok 3 JB Alegre St.,
Old Albay, Legazpi City

Jennifer Abonal
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Free CT Scan service at Ospital ng Maynila

By Tina G. Santos

TO IMPROVE the delivery of health care services for Manila residents, the city government has signed a Memorandum of Agreement with a private firm for free Computed Tomography or CT Scan services at the Ospital ng Maynila.

Needs

The hospital, although equipped with X-ray and fluoroscopic units and an ultrasound imaging module, needed a CT Scan for diagnostic techniques to detect tumors, blood clots and hemorrhages, among other things, that would help confirm clinical suspicions or impressions.

The new addition would facilitate therapeutics and patients' prognosis, Mayor Lito Atienza said.

Costly procedure

"We realized that there was a demand for services like this. That's why the city government, with the help of Mediscan Diagnostic Center, now provides CT Scan services for all our constituents who cannot afford the high cost of the procedure," he added.

Patients classified

The social services staff, on the other hand, will classify patients to validate whether or not they are legitimate Manila residents.

Part of the classification would involve finding out a prospective patient's class status since the service gives preference to the poor.

The CT Scan services will be paid for by the city government to ensure that the sick indigent is provided with the best medical care, Atienza said.

Newly renovated

The city hospital reopened to the public its newly renovated Emergency Room, Infirmary Ward and Neonatal Intensive Care Unit last month.

Last year, the hospital's Department of Surgery received the Asian Management Award.

Early this year, it won the prestigious Anvil Award for its Wholistic Social Responsibility Program.

Police release sketch of Seachon's killers

By Nancy C. Carvajal

POLICE released yesterday the sketches of the alleged killers of former Masbate congressman Fausto Seachon Jr. who was shot near his house in Caloocan City late Sunday evening.

Seachon, 64, was shot by one of two men while playing mahjong in a billiard hall.

Earlier attempt

Last year, he survived an ambush but a companion was killed and four others were wounded.

Witnesses told police that Sunday night's suspects rode a Kawasaki motorcycle and were familiar with the area.

"There are many entry points to the billiard hall," a witness said.

Chubby

Seachon's killers were described as between 30 and 40 years old.

The gunman, according to a witness, was "chubby, with a dark complexion."

His companion had curly hair and was about 5-foot-7, the same height as the gunman.

Identities established

According to Chief Supt. Leo Garra, the identities of the suspects have already been established and they are hoping that an arrest would be made soon.

Garra said that they were sticking to their initial findings that the assassination was done by hired killers and was politically motivated.

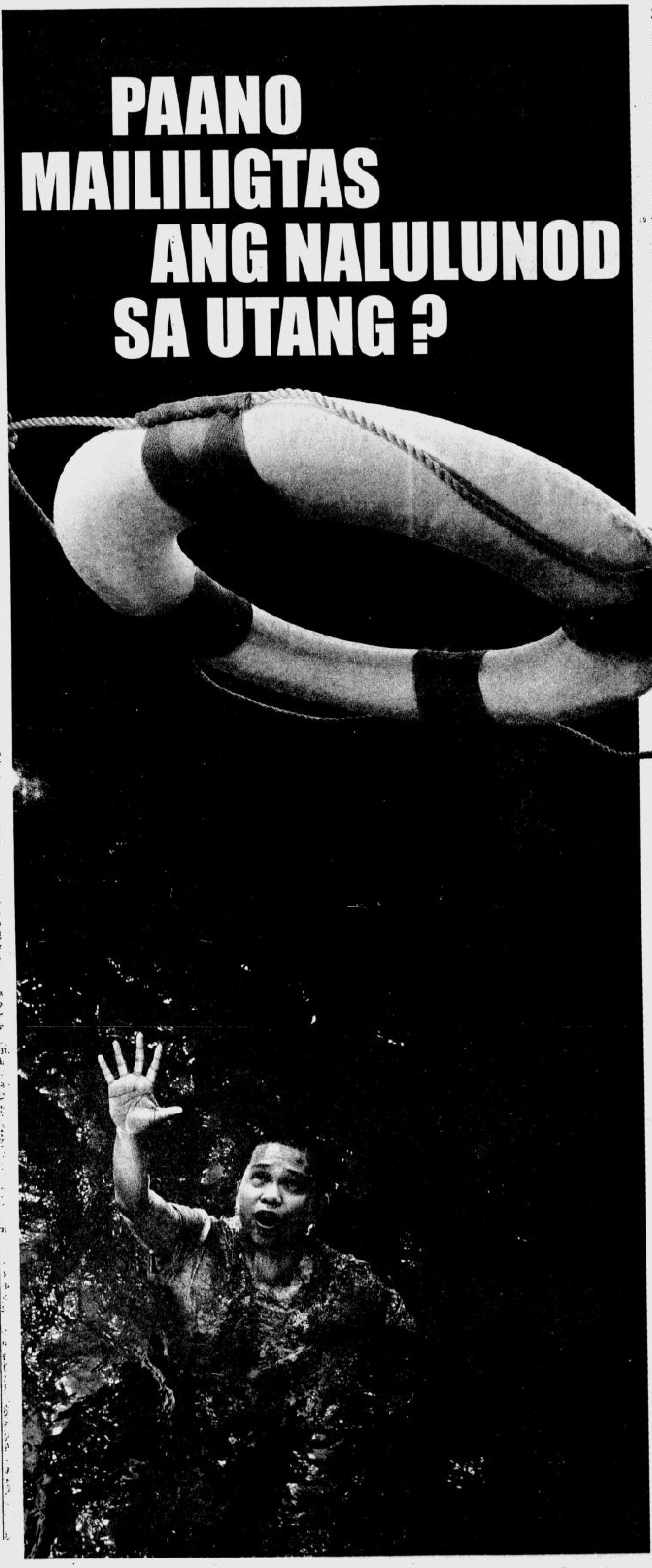
Political rivalry

"The victim's family still thinks that it was political rivalry," Garra added, although some family members remained silent on the matter.

The former congressman was the brother of Masbate Rep. Rizalina Seachon, who defeated Olga Kho, wife of incumbent Masbate Gov. Antonio Kho, in the 2004 elections.

Seachon, who was a three-time congressman, ran for governor when his term expired, but lost to Antonio.

PAANO MAILILIGTAS ANG NALULUNOD SA UTANG ?



Sa tulong ng VAT at iba pang reporma, kaya nating burahin ang budget deficit pagdating ng 2008.

Marami sa mga problema sa ating ekonomiya, nakatali sa utang ng bansa. Sa ngayon, 86 percent ng kinikita ng gobyerno, napupunta sa pagbayad ng utang. Kaya kailangan ng matinding reporma ukol sa pananalapi. Bahagi nito ang ine-repormang VAT. Ang kikitain sa tulong nitong VAT ay gagamiting para i-balanse ang budget at pondohan ang mga mahalagang proyekto ng pamahalaan lalong lalo na ang panlaban sa kahirapan at pag-aangat sa kabuhayan ng taong-bayan.

LAHAT MAGSASAKRIPISYO, PERO AALALAYAN ANG MGA MAHIRAP

Ang VAT ay isang 'consumption tax' - - - ang pinakamalakas gumastos at bumili ng produkto at serbisyo ang magpapasan ng mas malaking VAT. Bilang alalay sa taong bayan, exempted sa VAT ang mga pangunahing produkto tulad ng bigas at sariwang gulay, karne at isda. Wala ring VAT ang tuition, libro, diyaryo at magazine. Libre rin sa VAT ang pagbili ng low-cost o socialized housing, pati na rin ang upa sa bahay na mas mababa sa P10,000 a month. Wala ring VAT ang paninda ng mga negosyanteng hindi kumikita ng higit sa P1.5 million sa bawat taon.

BABANTAYAN LABAN SA KURAKOT

Sisiguraduhin na ang kita mula sa VAT ay gagamitin sa tamang paraan. Bahagi ng koleksyon mula sa VAT ay ilalaan para sa: 1) bagong paaralan, 2) kalye at patubig para sa magsasaka, 3) health insurance para sa kapos-palad, 4) programang pangkalikasan.

Kasabay nito, patuloy rin ang 'lifestyle check' at mga programa laban sa kurakot sa pamahalaan. Gayundin, ang kampanya laban sa mga tax evaders at smugglers, sa ilalim ng R.A.T.E., o Run After Tax Evaders at R.A.T.S., o Run After The Smugglers, ay patuloy upang pangalagaan ang kaban ng bayan.

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* Winner of USA adventure has the option to convert grand prize to cash, equivalent to Php 500,000.00 (The amount of Php 500,000.00 is fixed in Php currency, and not pegged to any exchange rate of US, exclusive of tax).

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9) CHIKKA.com will be sending a confirmation message to the sender that will require the participant to register by sending in their contact and basic information. Text in your name ‹space› age ‹space› and address.
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11) Each unique code can only be sent once. If the user texts more times for the same code, this will not increase raffle entries or chances of winning.
12) Thus, the more CHUCKIE promo 6-packs (containing the unique code) that you buy, the more times you can participate in the raffle (hence, the more chances of winning).
13) More unique codes sent will earn participants more raffle entries that will entitle them to win other special prizes.
14) All winning codes will be electronically drawn using a third party random generator represented by CHIKKA.COM.
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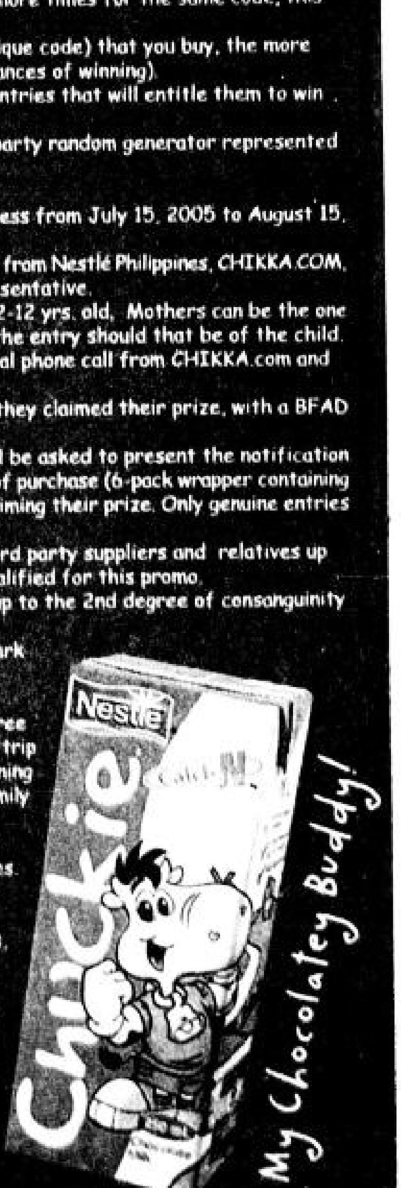
16) Grand Draw date will be on July 18, 2005. Verification process from July 15, 2005 to August 15, 2005. Winner will be awarded on August 15, 2005.
17) During the draw, there will be at least one representative each from Nestlé Philippines, CHIKKA.COM, and McCann Erickson with the supervision of a BFAD representative.
18) Those who are qualified to join are only children with ages 2-12 yrs. old, Mothers can be the one to text in the codes however, name that should appear on the entry should that be of the child.
19) The winner/s will be notified thru text message, and official phone call from CHIKKA.com and registered mail.
20) Awarding will take place at the Nestlé Sales office where they claimed their prize, with a BFAD representative present.
21) The winners of the grand prize and/or any other prizes will be asked to present the notification letter or show the text received, 2 valid IDs and the proof of purchase (6-pack wrapper containing the genuine sticker with the specific winning code) when claiming their prize. Only genuine entries are accepted. Authenticity subject to Nestlé verification.
22) All employees of Nestlé Phils., advertising agencies and third party suppliers and relatives up to the 2nd degree of consanguinity and affinity are not qualified for this promo.
23) All employees, consultants of CHIKKA.COM and relatives up to the 2nd degree of consanguinity and affinity are not qualified to join this promo.
24) The grand prize winner will decide which specific theme park he/she wants to visit in the USA (one theme park in one city/location only).
25) There will only be ONE (1) grand prize winner (to bring three family members/companions) for any theme park adventure trip in the USA. Said trip is good for a family of four. The winning participant has the discretion of choosing who among the family members will be his/her companions.
26) A total of 11 Nintendo DS Handheld game consoles and 22 Nokia 3220 mobile phones will be given as consolation prizes.
27) Six (6) Nintendo DS Handheld game consoles will be given to GMA and One (1) Nintendo DS Handheld game console each for South Luzon, Central Luzon, North Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao.
28) Six (6) Nokia 3220 cellphones will be given to GMA, four (4) in South Luzon, two (2) each in Central and North Luzon, and four (4) each in Visayas and Mindanao.
29) Raffle draw of the Nintendo DS Handheld game consoles and Nokia 3220 cellphones will be done every Wednesday during the duration of the promo, starting week of May 04.
30) Winners of consolation prizes are still qualified to win the grand prize.
31) Only the US adventure grand prize is convertible to cash.



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SPORTS

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SPORTS TV

Compiled by L. Mangulat

BASKETBALL: 2005 NBA Draft; 7 a.m. (r-9 p.m.); Solar Sports—Will it be Bogut or Williams for the Bucks?

TENNIS: Wimbledon—Ladies Singles Quarterfinals/Men's Round of 16; 12:30 p.m. (r); Day 8 Highlights; 6 p.m. (r); Men's and Ladies Singles Quarterfinals; 7 p.m.; STAR Sports—It's down to the elite eight at the All-England Club.

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

3 swimmers to compete in world tilt

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THREE Filipino swimmers heavily counted upon to lead the charge for the Philippines in the coming Southeast Asian Games will see action in the World Championships next month in Montreal.

The Philippine Amateur Swimming Association annouņced that United States-based swimmers Miguel Molina, Miguel Mendoza and JB Walsh will be carrying the country's colors in the World championships even as leading Filipina tanker Jaclyn Pangilinan was told to concentrate on her SEAG training.

Molina and Mendoza are expected to defend their SEAG swimming golds, while Walsh, a top age-group swimmer in Virginia, is also tipped to secure honors for the country in the Nov. 27-Dec. 5 SEA Games.

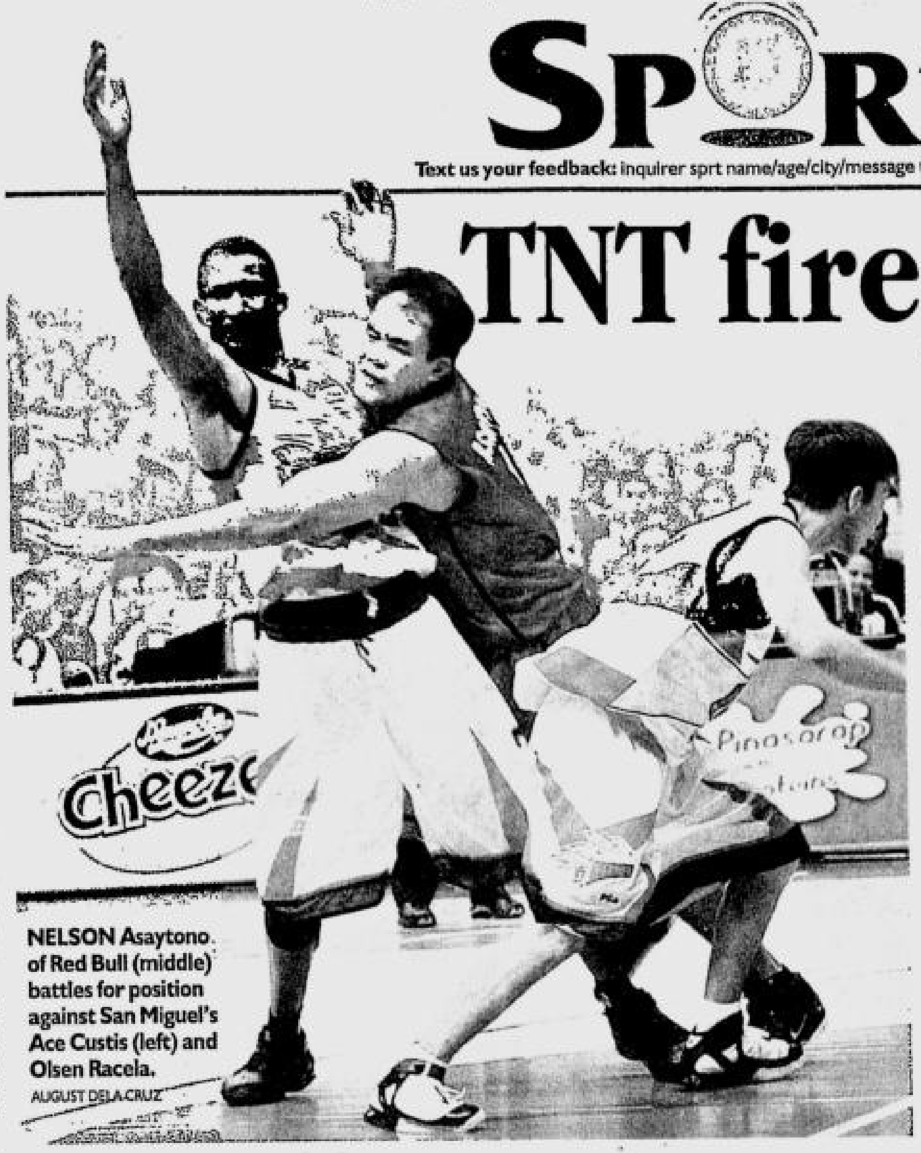
Pangilinan, who set the new RP record in the 100-meter backstroke during last year's Athens Olympics, was reportedly advised by her coach to focus her strength on the SEA Games, where the country is eyeing to surpass the three gold medals it won in the Vietnam SEAG in 2003.

Meanwhile, rising pool stars Marichi Gandionco, Denjylie Cordero and Ryan Arabejo led the charge for the Philippine age-group swimming team by harvesting eight gold medals during the two tournaments it recently competed abroad.

Gandionco, 16, hauled two golds in the 400-m freestyle and 200 individual medley during the 6th Asean schools swimming championships held in Suphaburi, Thailand, while taking two more in the 200 butterfly and 800 freestyle in the Southeast Asian age-group championships in Brunei last June 3-5.

Cordero also produced a gold medal each on both tournaments. She ruled the 200-m breast and won the bronze in the 100 breast in the Asean schools. In winning the 200-m breast in the SEA age-group, she rewrote her old mark of 2:44.99 by clocking 2:49.99. She also erased the 1:21.57 mark of Aphrodite Magbanlac in taking the 100-m breast bronze when she timed 1:19.57.

TNT firepower awes San Miguel



NELSON Asaytono of Red Bull (middle) battles for position against San Miguel's Ace Custis (left) and Olsen Racela.

AUGUST DELA CRUZ

By Jasmine W. Payo

JUST the talk of Asi Taulava's possible return to Talk 'N Text gets San Miguel head coach Jong Uichico dizzy.

"There are too many weapons, I don't know where to start looking for our advantage," said the multititled San Miguel mentor. "And then there's a lot of talk about Asi lately."

Taulava, the 6-foot-9 center suspended since October last year, is reportedly ripe for reinstatement, pending a formal green light from the justice department. But even in his absence, Uichico feels his Beermen will find things tough against the Phone Pals.

"Asi's absence is a blow to their frontline, but guys like [Mark] Telan and [Victor] Pablo have been playing well and scoring well for Talk 'N Text," said Uichico. "They can overwhelm you with their offensive talent."

Still, Phone Pals coach Joel Banal is hoping Taulava can suit up for one reason alone.

"He's part of the team," said Banal. "From day one since Asi was suspended, he was practicing with us all along. He's always included in our game plan."

Hunger should have been an advantage for the Beermen. After claiming one title after another at the turn of the millennium, San Miguel lost its last two championship stints and hasn't figured in a title showdown since 2003.

But Talk 'N Text has reason to chase this crown.

"Theirs is a different hunger," said Uichico. "They've been in the finals a lot of times lately, but they've won only one."

Peping arrives, meets with Philsoc execs

By Musong R. Castillo

PHILIPPINE Olympic Committee president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco arrives today from a medical trip to the United States, a day before the POC general assembly convenes to expel the controversial Basketball Association of the Philippines.

His first order of the day after touching down early this morning will be a meeting with the Executive Committee of the Philsoc, where Cojuangco is expected to be briefed on the preparations for the Southeast Asian Games.

Cojuangco will then tackle the BAP case late in the afternoon with the expanded 20-man executive committee of the POC at his residence in Dasmariñas Village, Makati.

Robert Aventajado, the POC chair whom Cojuangco left in charge, will report on the developments on the BAP and the Philippine Basketball Federation Inc., the new cage body that will take over the functions of the BAP if the expulsion pushes through.

The POC will move to expel the BAP tomorrow, needing the votes of at least 30 of the 38 National Sports Associations to be able to do so.

A POC source steadfastly said that a POC official did the rounds with the NSAs and confirmed that Cojuangco will get at least 34 votes during the GA also set at his residence.

Several things have happened since Cojuangco left.

The BAP elected a new set of officers and got a congratulatory letter from the international federation (Fiba).

The cage body, though suspended from the POC indefinitely, was also able to send a team to China for the Asian Women's championship.

On the other hand, there was a failure in the election of PBFI officers last Thursday.

An internal grumbling in the PBFI is also happening, with the PBA reportedly cutting its ties with the new group and several of the incorporators unhappy with the initial choice of some of the members for the federation's first president.

WHAT'S INSIDE

Luat, Andam gain 2 cracks at semis slots /A26

Wimbledon: Sharapova, Federer advance /A27

Lopez takes over as RP golf coach

By Musong R. Castillo

BONG Lopez, a name synonymous with the best shotmakers in the country, has taken over the coaching chores for the Philippine team tasked to win golf gold medals in the Southeast Asian Games later this year.

Lopez, the swing guru of LPGA champion Jennifer Rosales and former Philippine Open winner Cassius Casas, among others, assumes the job of Roger Retuerto, another revered teacher who will try his luck overseas.

Retuerto, the man chiefly responsible for molding Frankie Miñoza into the finest pro this country has ever produced, begged off from the National Golf Association of the Philippines after a stint that started in the early 1990s.

The RP Amateur champion in 1990, Lopez has taken Antonio Lascuna and Cookie La'O with him to the NGAP coaching job.

The national training program started last week, with the players to be quartered somewhere near the Canlubang Golf and Country Club. The SEAG golf tournament will be held at the exclusive The Country Club.

Four gold medals will be staked in golf, with the Philippines looking to keep its team and individual men's titles with a squad built around the celebrated Juvic Pagunsan.

Artemio Murakami, reigning Singapore Amateur champion Michael Bibat, former caddies champion Jay Bayron, Boyet Saragoza and reigning RP Am champ Jun Bernis are the other players in the national pool.

Lopez went to the United States to watch Rosales in the US Women's Open, where the Filipina shared 23rd with superstar Annika Sorenstam.

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Samsung Amateur Tour fires off today at Pueblo de Oro

CAGAYAN DE ORO—After getting denied by a prominent visitor who proved too good for the field last year, homegrown talents want the championship division trophy to stay in their turf this time as the Samsung Amateur Tour gets going today at the Pueblo de Oro Golf and Country Club.

With national team star Juvic Pagunsan opting not to defend his crown due to pressing commitments in Manila, the entire talent pool of the Del Monte Golf Club is showing up in full force, all raring to gun for the crown in the 72-hole event.

In the roster of the tourney serving as the second leg of a course-hopping nationwide series which kicked off last month at Royal Northwoods in Bulacan are brothers Ben and Paul Miñoza, reigning club champion Yoyong Velez, Tristan Tabanas, Joel Opaco, Louie Dakudao and Lino Retuerto.

Threatening to spoil the party set for the hometown bets are three players from the National Caddies Foundation who have flown here to test the mettle of the Del Monte aces: brothers Mario and Joseph Labajo and Junel Ababa.

Joseph Labajo won the National Caddies Open and the Calatagan Open recently while Mario placed three shots behind Boyet Saragoza at Northwoods.

Also kicking off today are the 36-hole competitions in men's Classes C and D and the three handicap classes in the ladies' division.

The Samsung Amateur Tour is sponsored by Tokyo Tokyo, KZG, Microtel, Coppertone Sport, Srixon, Philippine Airlines as the official carrier, Sunbolt, Rudy Project, C-Lium Fiber and Sports Plus. Media partners are Wave 89.1, Jam 88.3, 89.9, 99.5 RT, 103.5 K-Lite and Killer Bee.

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Ateneo, La Salle renew basketball rivalry July 2

A WEEK before the UAAP wars begin, hoop rivals Ateneo and La Salle will clash in an exhibition match at the Araneta Coliseum.

If the match-ups don't sound familiar—Tonichi Yturri vs Joy Carpio, Franz Pumaren vs Jojo Lastimosa and Virgil Villavicencio vs Ricky Palou—it's because they really aren't.

This is not the usual Eagles-Archers rivalry.

This is the Fil Oil/Flying V Ultimate Showdown: Ateneo-La Salle basketball classic, which features players whose most active participation in the current college setting is cheering their schools on.

La Salle heads into the July 2 reunion match with a coach-laden squad that includes San Miguel mentor Jong Uichico, Harbour Centre tactician Yturri, Talk 'N text assistant Villavicencio and current La Salle coach Pumaren.

"With a coach-laden team like ours, I'm pretty sure everybody will pick us as the favorite," said Alaska team manager and La Salle Legends coach Joaqui Trillo, whose players religiously practice at the adidas Sports Kamp. "But in reality, we're not. In fact, the guys are still getting back into basketball shape."

Completing the La Salle lineup are: Lim Eng Beng, Kenneth Yap, Negros Rep. Monico Puentevella, Joaqui Garcia, Edu Manzano, Titong Sagarbarria, Peter Ley, Joel Uichico, Boy Manguerra, Greg Vichara, Eric Afable, Elmo Tong, Luis Mirasol, Dennis Mendoza, Alex Marquez, Gabbby Velasco, Aldo Perez and Gabby Liwag.

"From what I heard, Ateneo has a tall lineup," Trillo said. "It's important for us not to let them set up in defense. What we lack in height, we'll make up with a speed game and accurate outside shooting."

Ogie Narvasa, temporarily handling the team for head coach Chito Narvasa, feels Ateneo is more than that.

"Whether we play a slow deliberate game, or we up the tempo a little, they know how to perform their roles," added Narvasa.

His faith is rooted in a roster he believes has the talent to battle the Green Archers.

The Blue Eagles roster includes: Jimmy Alabanza, Jeric Hechanova, Jojo Gamboa, Chito Afable, Lastimosa, Rene Banzon, Carpio, Joy Cleofas, Danny Daez, Felix Flores, Fritz Gaston, Boysie Henares, Boy Lijares, Jonel Ladaban, Chito Mistades, Palou, Tito Panlilio, Jimmy Tioseco, Pons Valdez, Steve Watson and Nonoy Chuatico.

Narvasa believes that outside shooting is their biggest weapon.

"Guys like Jimmy, Jeric, even Chito Afable can still make jumpers like they used to."

"It's fun to relive this rivalry," he added. "But at the same time, the guys are practicing real hard for this one, because in the end, conditioning is vital."

Luat, Andam gain 2 cracks at semis slots

THE LOOSE cannons of local billiards defended the fort in the 5th Motolite Battle of Champions Philippine International Open 9-Ball Championship at the Robinson's Galleria Trade Hall.

Forgotten stars Rodolfo Luat and Leonardo Andam posted similar 9-7 victories over fancied rivals yesterday to remain undefeated and gain two shots at the semifinals of the tournament sponsored by Motolite, Café Puro and Emperador Brandy.

Luat, the last player to qualify in the main draw, bested two-time world champion Johnny Archer of the United States while Andam downed Che Wei Fu of Taiwan.

With Archer breathing down his neck at 7-8, Luat holed the striped nine on the corner pocket with a carom shot through the green six while using a bridge.

The clincher came with the spectators wondering how Luat would prepare for the brown seven, which was on the other end of the table. As it turned out, a preparation was unnecessary.

"*Mukhang aksidente pero may pasok talaga 'yung* nine," said Luat.

His rise was, by no means, an accident.

Luat, known as "Boy Samson" because of his strong breaks, disposed of reigning world champion Alex Pagulayan, 9-7, in the first round. He was more impressive in his 9-4 demolition of current world No. 1 Neils Feijen in the following round.

But Luat will have to face Andam to take one of the two semifinals slots at stake on the winner's side.

The loser in the upcoming all-Filipino duel will have another crack at the semis by going up against one of the survivors on the losers' bracket.

Rodney Morris of the US and Yang Ching Shun of Taiwan, both undefeated, will dispute the other outright semifinal spots.

Morris beat Imram Majid of the United Kingdom, 9-6, while Yang crushed Thomas Engert of Germany, 9-5.

Still in the hunt for the $20,000 top purse as of press time were Filipinos Efren "Bata" Reyes, Alex Pagulayan and Marlon Manalo and big guns Mika Immonen, Marcus Chamat, Chang Pei Wei and Jeong Young Hwa.

Francisco "Django" Bustamante, two-time world champ Chao Fong Pang of Taiwan and 2003 world pool ruler Thorstenn Hohmann of Germany were among the casualties on the first day of the money round. Also packing their bags Monday were Americans Corey Deuel and Gabe Owens.

LEONARDO ANDAM: Aiming for the big time. FILEPHOTO

Mantawi cagers shoot for 3rd win today

ILOILO CITY—Unbeaten Mantawi (Mandaue) Sparkling Nights gun for their third straight victory in the 2005 Panasonic-NBC national basketball championship today when they play the Iloilo Warriors at the University of San Agustin Gym here.

The Hapee/Dewfoam-backed Sparkling Nights are heavily favored in the 6 p.m. match.

Mantawi beat the Iligan Crusaders, 88-75, last Sunday after opening their campaign with an exciting 82-79 overtime victory over the Valencia Golden Harvest earlier in the week.

Ardy Larong, a 6-foot-3 guard who has averaged 19 points, 11 rebounds and five assists in two games, is expected to lead Mantawi against the Warriors of Iloilo Basketball League president Robert Uy and strong supporter Gov. Niel Tupas.

"The team's confidence is high but we're not underestimating our rivals," said Mantawi coach Jun Noel. "The Warriors are hungry to win at home."

The Sparkling Nights pace the Southern Conference of the tourney supported by Panasonic, Sulpicio Lines, Cebu Pacific, Spring Cooking Oil, Accel, Molten, Far Eastern Insurance, Nature's Spring, Skygo Motorcycles, Sirlitz Solutions Provider, Hapee Toothpaste, Dewfoam Corp., KSK Food Products (Boy Bawang), Ping Ping Lechon, Bayview Park Hotel and Holiday Plaza-Cebu.

The Warriors, who have acquired four new players from West Negros College, hope to improve their 1-3 record in the Southern Conference.

NBC games are shown on NBN 4 at 4 p.m. every Sunday and on Prime Channel at 2 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. daily.

GMA not merely below the belt

BARE EYE

Recab Trinidad

(FONDLY: Melchor T. Arcangel, an original pillar of modern-day Mandaluyong, will be buried at the San Felipe Catholic Cemetery on Saturday, after the 1 p.m. Mass in the nearby parish church. I'll tail Tiyo Melchor's funeral coach, joining the hearse on foot from his residence all the way to his resting place. I did the same when we buried my father on Aug. 21, 1983, the day Ninoy Aquino was martyred. Melchor Arcangel, soldier, undefeated councilor and former municipal secretary, happened to be my second father. Just like with countless others in our old town, he helped us immensely in our struggling years. A boxing fan and expert, he, together with my father, ushered me early into the rudiments of the Sweet Science.)

* * *

The President of the Philippines who apologized on national television Monday night did not look like Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

She was every bit Nora Aunor doing a nun whose sinless sincerity and heavy make-up could've readily qualified her for the role of a saint.

GMA had never been seen wearing that Monday night mask before.

Not when she fervently vowed before a monument of Jose Rizal she would not be seeking public office again.

Not when she made a mockery of the national hero by later making a turn-around and announcing she would, after all's been said and done, seek the presidency.

Everything was so new; but all that GMA had to was sickeningly dramatic, very hard to swallow.

* * *

Speaking of instant change in appearance, the PBA whose unpopularity was second only to the President's, suddenly did not look like a dying, dilapidated former top tournament on Sunday.

No, the fans did not come in droves but the once sleepy gallery again throbbed with life.

If to a balding old man, the PBA suddenly woke up with a new, promising head of hair.

Of course, this is the time of the year, the period in the pro league when fans again trek back to the coliseum as the race nears the homestretch.

The championship, the moment of truth, is just around the corner.

* * *

For PBA diehards, this is the season to believe.

Of course, there were those who have started to ask if the PBA would ever be able to recover and relive its old glory days.

Those who sense a failure of the system similarly wonder if the PBA would be able to survive the drought.

Well, the horrible officiating in last Sunday's game, that had visibly victimized the sensational Shell squad, added up to the growing mess the pro league had to contend with.

But all these problems and slips, not to mention the reported bankruptcy, should be momentarily shelved once the San Miguel-Talk 'N Text final series gets going.

* * *

In short, PBA could look good again, worth patronizing even this once.

Unfortunately this could not be said of the presidency, which the current tenants at Malacañang had obviously tainted.

There's the perception of deceit, the deep hurt, mainly after the refusal of the President to speak up on the poll fraud tapes, that the GMA drama portion on television last Monday failed to assuage.

It's easy to assume the GMA apology was received sourly, with both disdain and derision by most of the poor and hungry out in our chaotic streets.

* * *

Told that the President has apologized and assured them a better lot—"*Mahal na mahal kayo ni* Ma'am, *di na raw ulit kayo dadayain*—" customers and vendors in the nearby fish market reacted with a smirk.

"*Sinaksak ka sa likod, sunod hihingi ng paumanhin* (She stabbed us at the back, then she'd say sorry)," protested the fat, fortyish fish lady with a stall after the village chapel.

If it were just an accidental low blow or head butt, said the short, dusky wheat sack filer at the nearby flour mill, it could be forgiven.

"*Pero parang* homicide *ginawa, paano patatawarin* (But it was equal to homicide, how do we pardon her)?" protested the worker, a boxing fan.

Those tough quotes fittingly caption the street sentiments against the President.

Then, as the remains of Jaime Cardinal Sin was being lowered into a crypt yesterday, the television crawled out this note: "GMA's admission created more questions than answers."

More anti-GMA protests have been lined up around Metro Manila, the same station reported.

The mask and the theatrics obviously did not pay off.

SPORTSWATCH

Gorres faces Kengkarun at Makati Coliseum

SUPERFLY Z "The Dream" Gorres faces a tough test before his planned crack at the OPBF diadem as he goes up against Thai Deeden Kengkarun, the former Paba flyweight king, on July 23 at the Makati Coliseum in Makati City. The event, which will be covered by Viva Sports, will feature Gorres before he takes on the winner of the upcoming Masayuki Arinaga-Daisuke Maruyama tiff. OPBF president Frank Quill had earlier installed Gorres as the OPBF's mandatory challenger in the latest rankings by the WBC-sanctioned regional organization. "I am ready to face this Thai," said Gorres. The sweet-punching former amateur standout, who had recently undergone training under renowned tactician Buddy McGirt in Orlando, Florida, is now training at the ALA Gym in Talamban, Cebu. Gorres, who is managed by lawyer Rodrigo Salud and Cebuano sportsman Tony Aldeguer, last saw action on March 19, defeating Glenn Donaire in the first round underneath the Erik Morales-Manny Pacquiao rumble. He has won his last eight fights since his shock defeat at the hands of Edgar Rodrigo in 2003. The stocky Kengkarun is a dangerous 33-fight veteran (21-10-2, 12 KOs). ***Salven L. Lagumbay***

Barbosa gains solo lead in men's chessfest

NATIONAL Master Oliver Barbosa agreed to a quick draw with International Master Mark Paragua in the sixth round to seize solo leadership in the Men's Standard Chess Grand Finals yesterday at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium. Barbosa and Paragua halved the point after just 17 moves of a Queen's Gambit, raising Barbosa's total to 4.0 points. Paragua improved to 3.0 points. Sharing the spotlight on the sixth was Fide Master Jesse Noel Sales, who stunned Grandmaster Joey Antonio in 46 moves of a Nimzovich. The win with the black pieces gave Sales 3.5 points and a share of second spot with brother-in-law IM Jayson Gonzales, who had a bye. IM Ronald Dableo stayed in contention after beating GM Nelson Mariano II in 49 moves of English Opening. The former Asian 3.2a Zonal champion was in solo seventh with 2.5 points, half behind Paragua, Mariano and Antonio. FM Fernie Donguines broke a losing spell with a victory over NM Julius De Ramos in 33 moves of a French Defense. Also winning his first match in the qualifying event for the national standard chess team was FM Oliver Dimakiling, who beat IM Richard Bitoon in 55 moves of a King's Indian Attack.

Cebuana Lhuillier sweeps Slo-Pitch

CEBUANA Lhuillier swept the recent 22nd Southeast Asia International Slo-Pitch Softball Tournament at the Senayan Sports Complex in Indonesia. The sweep was punctuated by a 16-3 victory over erstwhile undefeated and defending champion Chinese-Taipei in the championship game. The three-day tournament attracted 14 club teams from Asia. Other teams used American imports with the exception of Cebuana Lhuillier and Chinese-Taipei, which ironically ended up meeting in the finals. Cebuana Lhuillier tied the score at 2 in the bottom half of the second inning of the final with runs from Mark Rae Ramirez, who opened with a double, and playing head coach Davy Lan Perez. It then exploded with eight unanswered runs in the third inning with veteran Vhio Roxas, who emerged tournament MVP, leading the onslaught with Apol Rosales, Manuel and Lando Binarao, Andoy Velasquez and Ramirez.

National dartfest set at Pearl Plaza

THE COUNTRY'S best darters lock horns in the 2005 National Singles Championship set July 1 to 6 at the Pearl Plaza Billiards and Darts Bar in Parañaque City. Aside from the P70,000 total cash pot, also at stake in the six-day tournament are ranking points and slots for the Philippine Team to be sent to the World Cup scheduled in Perth, Australia, later this year. The eliminations for the RP squad will take center stage on July 5 at 11:30 a.m. at the same venue. The Chairman's Cup classified doubles event kicks off the tournament this Friday with an entry fee of P200 per darter. On July 2 and 3, the non-rated event and the women's and men's singles events will take place. The Darts Council of the Philippines has conducted a nationwide elimination system for the national pool. The pool is composed of the top 16 male and top eight female darters based on the Jan. 1, 2004 to July 4, 2005 national rankings. Aside from these, eight male and four female darters from the Vis-Min region and four male and two female darters from Luzon determined through a selection process conducted by regional directors of the DCP were included in the pool. The DCP, headed by lawyer Andee Arrieta, is hoping to send the best possible team to the World Cup.

BEST weekend classes begin July 2

MILO BEST Center's weekend classes will start on July 2 and 3 in four venues. Saturday-only sessions will be conducted from July 2 to Aug. 20 at the Ateneo College covered courts in Quezon City, San Beda College-Manila and Notre Dame of Greater Manila. Sunday-only clinics will be held on July 3 to Aug. 21 at San Beda College-Alabang. Classes at Ateneo are scheduled from 8 a.m to 11 a.m. while those at SBC-Manila, Notre Dame and SBC-Alabang are set from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Visit BEST Center, 34 Scout Lozano, QC, or Sensei Salon/Dansei Groom Shop, 5th Floor, Manila Pavilion Hotel, UN Avenue or call 411-6260, 372-3065 and 525-8191.

Water polo tourney slated July 2-3

THE PHILIPPINE Amateur Swimming Association Water Polo Committee will hold an open and age group tournament on July 2 and 3 at the Rizal Memorial pool. The competition will serve as tryouts for the national junior water polo team and an evaluation for the national squad. More than 100 players from different clubs, schools and the Armed Forces of the Philippines are expected to see action. Interested parties may join the practice every Saturday from 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. at the Rizal Memorial pool or call the water polo office at 414-0864.

19th PCC anniversary derby stakes P2M

A GALORE of easy-to-win prizes, totaling P2 million, await participants in the "19th PCC Anniversary 5-Cock Derby" of Pasay City Cockpit on July 18, 20 and 22. Sponsor is Sagupaan Complexor 3000. Pit managers Eric dela Rosa, Butchoy Olano and Roming Vergara said the PCC management will adopt a new format for this special event. Two pointers in the elimination rounds on July 18 and 20 will get P15,000 each. Those who will emerge as champions on July 22 are guaranteed to receive P1 million. Participants with three straight wins (fight numbers 1, 2 and 3) will share in the P100,000 prize; fight numbers 2, 3 and 4, P100,000 and fight numbers 3, 4 and 5, P100,000. Participants will get their yearly anniversary gifts from Pasay Cockpit management upon registration. For reservation of cockhouses, call 843-1890, 843-1746 and 816-6750.

RACING TIPS

AT SANTA ANA BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Jaw Breaker 2. Precious Moment 3. Nagmamahal 4. Hot Babe
Race 2—1. Dow Jones 2. Legally Blonde 3. Ocean Cookie 4. Sunline
Race 3—1. Coolmore 2. Rock Attack Attack 3. Whistle Blower 4. Best in Class
Race 4—1. Ho Ho Ho 2. Lucky Joe 3. Earl's Game
Race 5—1. Words of Joy 2. Pay to See 3. Reporter 4. Split Decision
Race 6—1. Gutsy 2. Heart of Jonna 3. Western Dancer 4. Highly Connected
Race 7—1. Gigi's Gold 2. Capricorn Aida 3. God Is Good 4. Rose and Toy
Race 8—1. Lady Tycoon 2. Little Sam 3. Men of Honor 4. I Remain 5. Red Anya 6. Sham Sham

For a change

IN HUDDLE

Beth Celis

GONE for 10 days with minimal communication coming from the homeland, I was excited to be updated on the latest in the local sporting scene upon my return from China late Monday night.

Friends I bumped into at the airport were only too happy to give me the lowdown, for a change. They said San Miguel Beer and Talk 'N Text were meeting in the PBA Grand Matador Fiesta Cup finals, but that Asi Taulava continued to be suspended; that the projected election of officers of the newly formed Philippine Basketball Federation some days ago did not push through; that the PBA has pulled out of the PBF; that Red Bull's Enrico Villanueva is undergoing surgery at the Chinese General Hospital for a broken nose inflicted by SMB import Ace Custis' wayward elbow, etc., etc.

Wow! And I was only gone for 10 days.

***

First hour Tuesday morning I started calling people for confirmation and interviews.

It's true that Asi continued to be in the freezer. Not because that was the board's decision in last Monday's regular meeting, but because that matter was not discussed at all, since it was not in the agenda.

From what I learned, some parties are awaiting the release of an important document from the Department of Justice before they made a move. I'm not sure if it was PBA Commissioner Noli Eala or Talk 'N Text or both who was waiting for the document. We should know soon enough. Maybe even before I finish this column.

Nothing really earth-shaking was taken up in the last PBA board meeting, I was told, unless the election of officers falls under this category. You all know that San Miguel's Eli Capacio will be the new chair for the next season, replacing Buddy Encarnado who, I was told, hosted the sumptuous lunch at the Edsa Shangri-La's Chinese restaurant, this being the last board meeting under his stewardship.

***

Talk 'N Text's brilliant HRD man Ricky Vargas was elected vice chair. They said he wasn't at all interested in the post, but that his friends wouldn't take no for an answer and finally convinced him to accept, albeit with a certain condition. This I cannot reveal, if at all it's true.

Like Ricky, Red Bull's Tony Chua was a reluctant appointee, agreeing to become treasurer only after some amount of friendly persuasion.

The board will miss Dads Africa of Ginebra next season. Dads resigned on the day of the annual elections, announcing that he is retiring from Ginebra. And he's only 55 years old, if my info is accurate.

San Miguel's Robert Non said there is no replacement as yet for Africa.

Incidentally, San Miguel fans are requested to wear red when they come to the PBA games on Friday for the championship showdown between the Beermen and the Talk 'N Text Phone Pals.

If their wardrobe will allow, SMC's corporate affairs man, the very affable Serge Alombro, said to please wear red every game day in the best-of-seven finals series.

***

It's true that the PBA board has decided to decline involvement in the Philippine Basketball Confederation, basically because the move is divisive, according to my source.

"We want to unify, not divide," he said.

According to a colleague, the BAP is sending the old Cebuana Lhuillier team to the Seaba with a number of reinforcements.

Originally set in Singapore, the tournament will be held in Malaysia next month.

The PBA is sticking to its original memorandum of agreement with the BAP now headed by Joey Lina.

***

Red Bull cager Enrico Villanueva is scheduled for nose surgery today at the Chinese General Hospital.

I'm told that Enrico was elbowed in the nose by San Miguel import Ace Custis, knocking the Barako down and out and smashing his nasal bones.

"Rico lost a lot of blood. His whole face is fully bandaged and he is being prepared for surgery," Photokina's Raffy Casyao said.

"This is not the first time Custis hurt our player. Warrne Ybanez, Lordy Tugade and Jimwell Torion have been victims."

***

ABC-5, one of the three PBA bidders, is making a presentation tomorrow. The other two are Solar and Jemah.

SWEET REVENGE

Venus ousts sis' slayer

Sharapova, Federer, Davenport advance

WIMBLEDON, England—Two Williams sisters turned out to be one too many for Jill Craybas.

Stung by younger sister Serena's loss at Wimbledon, two-time champion Venus Williams advanced to the quarterfinals Monday by beating Craybas, 6-0, 6-2.

Craybas upset Serena in the third round, then returned less than 48 hours later to the same stage—cozy Court 2, known as the Graveyard of Champions. This time Craybas lost the first six games and the last six.

"It's probably a really big challenge mentally to play Serena and me in a row," Venus said. "I guess I had a good position to be second sister."

In the past six years, the sisters have lost to the same player at only three Grand Slam events. Averting such a sweep was motivation, Venus said.

"A little bit for my sister," she said, "but mostly for me."

Defending champion Maria Sharapova, seeded second, never faced a break point and beat No. 16 Nathalie Dechy, 6-4, 6-2. Sharapova was one of four Russian women to reach the final eight, a Grand Slam record.

Top-ranked Lindsay Davenport, the 1999 champion, beat No. 15 Kim Clijsters, 6-3, 6-7 (4), 6-3. Clijsters double-faulted three times in the final game, including on match point.

In men's play, two-time defending champion Roger Federer swept No. 23 Juan Carlos Ferrero, 6-3, 6-4, 7-6 (6). The top-ranked Federer's next opponent will be No. 21 Fernando Gonzalez, the first Chilean to reach the men's quarterfinals since Ricardo Acuna in 1985. Gonzalez defeated No. 31 Mikhail Youzhny, 7-6 (3), 7-6 (5), 6-3.

No. 2 seed Andy Roddick beat No. 15 Guillermo Coria, 6-3, 7-6 (1), 6-4. Roddick will next play two-time semifinalist Sebastien Grosjean, who beat Dmitry Tursunov, 6-4, 6-7 (5), 6-3, 3-6, 6-1.

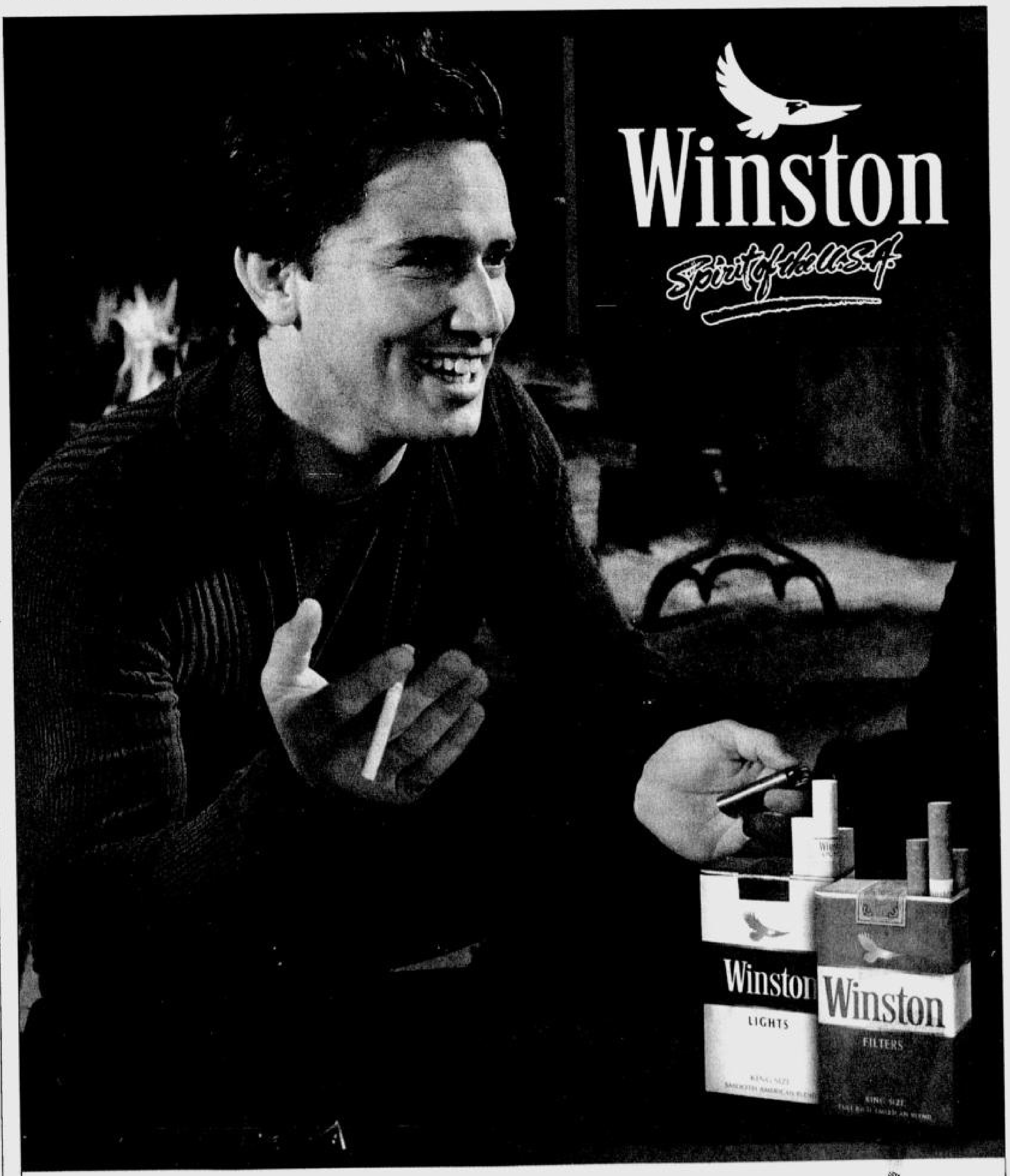
No. 3 Lleyton Hewitt defeated No. 24 Taylor Dent, 6-4, 6-4, 6-7 (7), 6-3. Hewitt, the 2002 champion, will next play Feliciano Lopez, the first Spaniard to reach the men's quarterfinals since Manuel Orantes in 1972. Lopez beat No. 10 Mario Ancic, 6-4, 6-4, 6-2.

Mary Pierce reached the quarterfinals for the first time in nine years by beating Flavia Pennetta, 6-3, 6-1. She'll face Williams next.

Williams had expected to renew her sibling rivalry with two-time champion Serena, but instead she cruised to an easy victory over Craybas. Venus had 28 winners and just 15 errors and won 13 of 14 points at the net.

No. 18 David Nalbandian, the runner-up in 2002, eliminated No. 27 Richard Gasquet, 6-4, 7-6 (3), 6-0. Gasquet, 19, was the last teenager in the men's draw. *AP*

DEFENDING champion Roger Federer whips a return to Juan Carlos Ferrero on his way to the quarterfinals. AP



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Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health.

Jazz for La Mesa paradise

She can't change the country, Gina Lopez says, but she can build a place of wellness

By Pocholo Concepcion
Contributor

THESE happened on the same day.

In London, Bob Geldof announced he was again spearheading a big musical event, this time aimed at creating a political solution for poverty in Africa. The gig is called "Live 8," scheduled on July 2, days before the G8, leaders of the world's richest countries, meet in Britain. It will be held simultaneously in Berlin, Paris, Rome, Philadelphia and London and feature a roster of superstars including Paul McCartney, U2, Madonna, Bon Jovi, Brian Wilson, Crosby, Stills & Nash, Coldplay, Sting, Stevie Wonder and Jay-Z.

Geldof is best remembered as the driving force behind the "Band Aid" recording and "Live Aid" concerts in 1985 that raised $40 million for poverty relief in Africa.

Wellness fest

In Manila, Richard Merk presided over a meeting of musicians and organizers of a big open-air jazz festival aimed at supporting the "Save the La Mesa Watershed" project. The concert is part of the "Wellness Festival 2005" on Nov. 12, an all-day event intended to create awareness on the life-sustaining benefits provided by 2,700 hectares of forest called the La Mesa watershed.

The watershed, located in Fairview, Quezon City, and adjacent to the Sierra Madre Mountain Ranges that extend through Caloocan and Rizal Province, is also the site of the La Mesa Dam, which supplies water for millions of Metro Manila residents.

In 1998, it was discovered that 1,200 hectares of the watershed had been denuded due to *kaingin* farming. A study showed that the forest would be gone in five years if no one moved to remedy the situation.

LOPEZ

Enter Gina Lopez of Bantay Kalikasan, the environmental arm of ABS-CBN Foundation. In 1999, Bantay Kalikasan was put in charge of rehabilitating and protecting La Mesa. Lopez proudly reports that 1,000 hectares of La Mesa has since been replanted with 40 native species of trees and that some 1,200 squatters have been relocated.

The goal now is to convert 33 hectares within La Mesa Dam into a resort and ecological park that would provide a respite and sanctuary for people choking from pollution in the city. Only 60 percent of this undertaking is finished.

Lopez is always thinking of ways to make people come and appreciate the natural wonders of La Mesa. "I thought it would be nice to have an event that would celebrate today's widespread quest for wellbeing, in this place where people could bask in natural surroundings and breathe fresh air. So we decided to hold the Wellness Festival."

Music and more

What to expect during the festival amid the lush forest of La Mesa: organic food, massage and spa services, instructional yoga and other stuff associated with nourishing the mind, body and spirit.

"And then I thought it would also be nice to have a cultural activity in the evening."

Lopez wanted jazz music for a cause, so she turned to Merk, a jazz singer who has been gaining a reputation for organizing charity gigs.

Merk immediately went to work and, at the meeting, named the musicians he wanted on the bill:

Jaqui Magno, Mon David, Sandra Lim, Lyn Sherman, Verni Varga, Arhtur Manuntag, Aretha, Eddie Katindig, UP Jazz Ensemble, Ugoy-Ugoy Band, Romy Posadas, Elimir Saison Quartet, Rey Cristobal, Joey Quirino, Henry Katindig, Roger Herrera, Cielo Lumacad, Meong Pacana, Norman Ferrer, Marcy Estrella, Dingdong Boogie, Ramon Guevarra, Uly Avante, Mar Dizon, Michael Alba, Ricky Posadas, Tots Tolentino, Michael Guevarra, Cesar Aguas, Edgar Avenir, John Lesaca and Cooky Chua, among others. Mitch Valdes has been asked to host the show.

In London, Geldof declared: "We don't want people's money. We want them to hear what we want to say."

In Manila, Lopez mused: "I can't change the country. But I hope to build a paradise in La Mesa."

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6 GOLD (SDDS) WAR OF THE WORLDS
7 GOLD (DOLBY) MONSTER IN LAW
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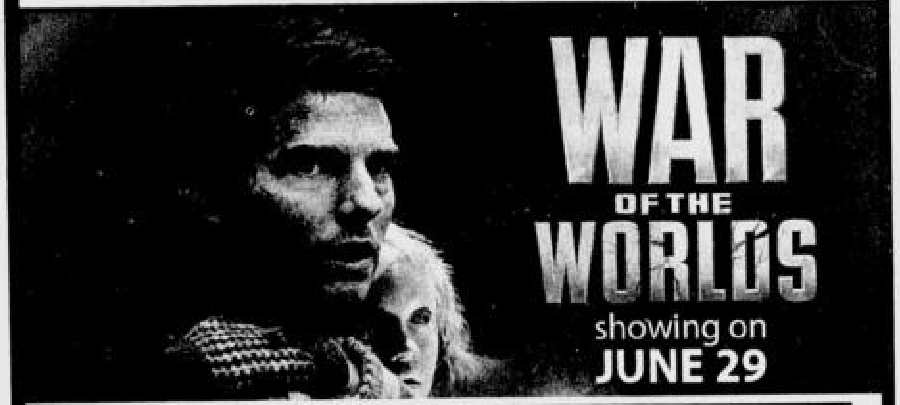

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1:25 / 4:05 / 6:45 / 9:25
HAPPILY EVER AFTER
1:40 / 4:10 / 6:40 / 9:10
WAR OF THE WORLDS
11:40 / 12:15 / 12:50 / 1:40 / 2:35 / 3:10 / 3:45 / 4:20
5:30 / 6:05 / 6:40 / 7:00 / 8:25 / 9:00 / 9:35 / 9:40
BATMAN BEGINS
1:00 / 3:50 / 6:40 / 9:30
NASAAN KA MAN
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12:30 / 3:00 / 5:30 / 8:00
❷ WAR OF THE WORLDS
12:40 / 3:20 / 6:00 / 8:40
❸ BATMAN BEGINS
11:40 / 2:30 / 5:20 / 8:10
❹ NASAAN KA MAN
12:20 / 2:50 / 5:20 / 7:50
❺ MR & MRS SMITH
12:10 / 2:50 / 5:30 / 8:10
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ARANETA COLISEUM EVENTS
July 1, Friday 2005 PBA FIESTA CONFERENCE- FINALS *4:45pm Red Bull vs Shell / 7:35pm Talk N Text vs San Miguel*
ULTIMATE SHOWDOWN ATENEO - LA SALLE BASKETBALL CLASSIC *July 2, Sat, 1pm & 3pm*
July 3, Sunday 2005 PBA FIESTA CONFERENCE FINALS: GAME 2 *6:40pm Talk N Text vs San Miguel*
July 6, Wednesday 2005 PBA FIESTA CONFERENCE FINALS: GAME 3 *7:30pm Talk N Text vs San Miguel*

CENTER EVENTS
SALE EVENTS
***Celine Sale** with up to 50% off on selected items from July 1 to 31 at Level 2 of Gateway Mall*
***Bayo Sale** with up to 50% off on selected items from July 8 to 24 at Level 3 of Gateway Mall*
EXHIBIT
***Herbie: Fully Loaded** life-size replica on display from July 7 to 13 at the Gateway Cineplex 10 lobby*
SPECIAL APPEARANCE
***Neil Gaiman Book Signing** on July 11, 4pm at Fully Booked on Level 2 of Gateway Mall*

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OPENING TODAY

War of the Worlds

Directed by Steven Spielberg
Stars Tom Cruise, Miranda Otto, Dakota Fanning, Justin Chatwin, Tim Robbins

SUMMARY: A contemporary retelling of H.G. Wells' seminal classic, the sci-fi adventure thriller reveals the extraordinary battle for the future of humankind through the eyes of one American family fighting to survive it.

Because today is the world premier, there are no reviews of note just yet. But DJ Taylor wrote in the June 17 issue of the The Guardian: "In so far as one can deduce from the pre-release web sites and teaser-trailers, 'War of the Worlds,' the forthcoming Spielberg/Dreamworks extravaganza, opens with separated-but-regular guy Tom Cruise picking up his little daughter for a bout of weekend access. The setting, so far as one can tell, is West Coast America. Here, Tom takes a gander at the swirling, mutinous skies—so maybe President Bush was wrong about climate change? —and shrugs his brawny shoulders. Abruptly the scene changes to out-of-town Hicksville, where a crowd of wide-eyed locals gingerly observe the luminous green rays emanating from over yonder hill. A file of appended stills reveals Cruise, women and children wrapped around him, in a series of heroic attitudes, all part, apparently, of "one family's fight for survival." Of the alien invaders, their habits, physiognomy and firepower, there is, as yet, no sign."

Happily Ever After

Directed by Maryo J. de los Reyes
Stars John Prats, Maxene Magalona, Kempee de Leon, Nadine Samonte, Tyron Perez, Rainier Castillo, Yasmien Kurdi

SUMMARY: A trilogy unlike "Tatlo, Dalawa, Isa" where in one story, you have Lolita Rodriguez whispering to Mary Walter, "Mamatay ka! Mamatay ka!" This one is a feel-it-all, not just a feel-good movie from Regal, featuring the most popular young stars in local entertainment.

In "Kuba," John Prats is Vince who jilts a barrio lass named Laura, played by Maxene Magalona. Laura's mom is a witch who transforms Vince into a guess what—an ugly, disfigured hunchback. What will it take for Laura's mother to lift the curse? Will Vince ever revert back to normal? Actually, we don't care.

In "Multong Bakla," Keempee de Leon plays Pampee, a love-starved gay who is haunting ultimate Starstruck Avengers Tyrone Perez and Nadine Samonte for reasons that are clear only to the swishy ghost. Now this sounds promising. We *lurve* gay ghost stories.

In "Romeo and Juliet," Gio, played by Rainier Castillo and Jenny, played by Yasmien Kurdi belong to two feuding families a la—you guessed it—Romeo and Juliet. Unknown to Gio, his girlfriend Barbie is involved in a cellphone video scandal. Unknown to Jenny, her boyfriend Briggs is a closet gay. Could the secrets of their respective lovers, once revealed, bring Gio and Jenny together? All those who want to know, say: "Hello ... hello, Garci!"

Standing room ...

From page A32

first experience at the spa, and why?

Guest: *Sobra, kasi sobrang* soothing *ang* treatment *at sobrang* first time *ko ito*!

(*Talagang sobra*!)

***

Host: What is your objection to the TV show?

Guest: It contains scenes and languages not suitable for children!

(What languages! Swahili, Esperanto ...?)

***

Host: Why were the rallyists not allowed inside the venue of the public forum? Isn't a public forum for everybody?

Guest: Yes, but there are limits—not everything is open to all asunder!

(*Ano daw*?)

***

Host: What does our nation need to do to heal itself?

Guest: We need to pray. Religion is the moral fiber that shoos together the nation.

(Shoos? Oh, sews!)

***

Host: Who was the source of the funds for the recent destabilizing move?

Guest: It's not definite, but one report, *ang sabi, ang* source *ay isang lumang* retired general.

(*Ang sakit mo namang magsalita*!)

Mitch on womanhood

IN her "A Rocking Comedy" show at the Mandarin's Captain's Bar, **Mitch Valdes** zeroes in on a topic close to her heart: Womanhood.

"It's all about the funny issues that women have to contend with everyday—from how to decipher the male species without losing your sanity, to confronting your dreams during menopause," the popular singer-comedienne explains.

But men should also find Mitch's act—which comes with rock 'n' roll and R&B numbers—interesting and hilarious, because they have to deal with the women in their lives all the time.

Other show dates are July 1, 2, 8, 9, 15 and 16. Call 8919999 or 7508888.

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MTRCB: PG-13
12:00, 2:30
2 BATMAN BEGINS
MTRCB GP
3 WAR OF THE WORLD MTRCB PG-13
11.00, 1 30, 4.00, 10:00
4 WAR OF THE WORLDS
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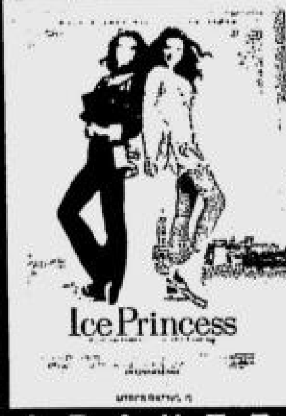

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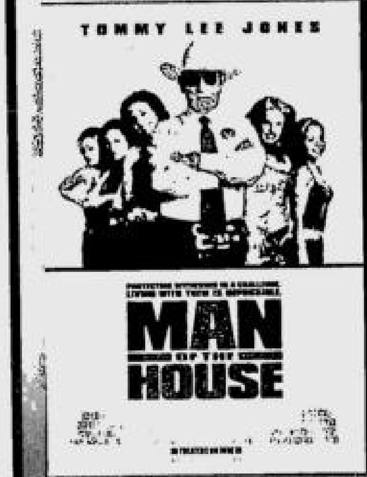

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10 WAR OF THE WORLDS
11 NASAAN KA MAN
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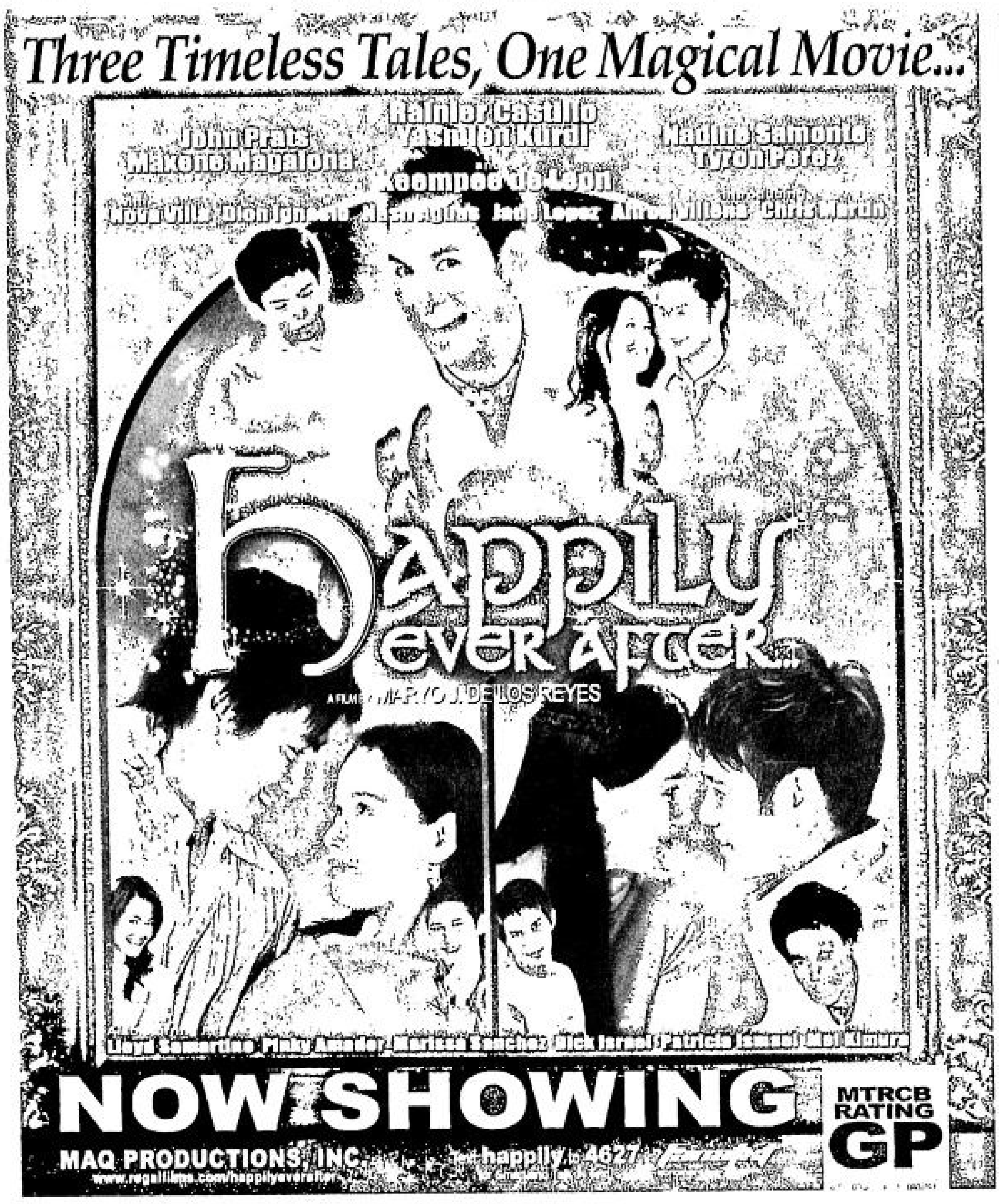
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FREESTYLE: Top and Jinky are second and third from right.

Trouble at the Tavern

From page A32

She said her brother found out that Jinky and Tat had been planning Jinky's solo career "without saying a thing to the band."

Top "did not have a problem with Jinky going solo," Rochelle said. But it hurt her brother when Tracy said the band had to be "there ... in case Jinky's career doesn't fly."

Rochelle elaborated: "Top was like, 'I don't want to hope for Jinky to fail just so she will stay. Why should the band wait for Jinky when the band can go on without her if she really wanted to pursue a solo career?' What Top [resented] most was that Tat [presented the scenario as a possibility] when it was already a fully laid out plan, as admitted by their manager."

Tracy, in a telephone interview said: "The band is still intact. Top left voluntarily, so he's out. We respect his decision to leave. We've moved on. We read and hear things like this, but we don't care anymore. In fact, we now have two new members—Mike Luis and Joshua Desiderio."

According to Rochelle, in the last few months that Top was with the band, Jinky often "attacked" him, calling him "showbiz, *pastar* and *mayabang*."

"Somebody was doing the back-stabbing all right, but it was not Top," Rochelle said. "What guy in his right mind would leave a band he loved like his own life?"

Couple Jinky and Tat formed Freestyle in Davao in 1996 and asked Manila-based Top to be male vocalist. The band's first gigs were at, the Apo View Hotel.

The group was soon Manila-bound. They inked a contract with Neo Records and released their first self-titled album. Their songs, "Before I Let You Go" and "So Slow," topped local charts. In 1998, the group released a second record, "Freestyle This Time." Their latest, "Once in a Lifetime," was released last year.

"The band has replaced Top," said Rochelle. "Now if they could just stop speaking ill of him ..."

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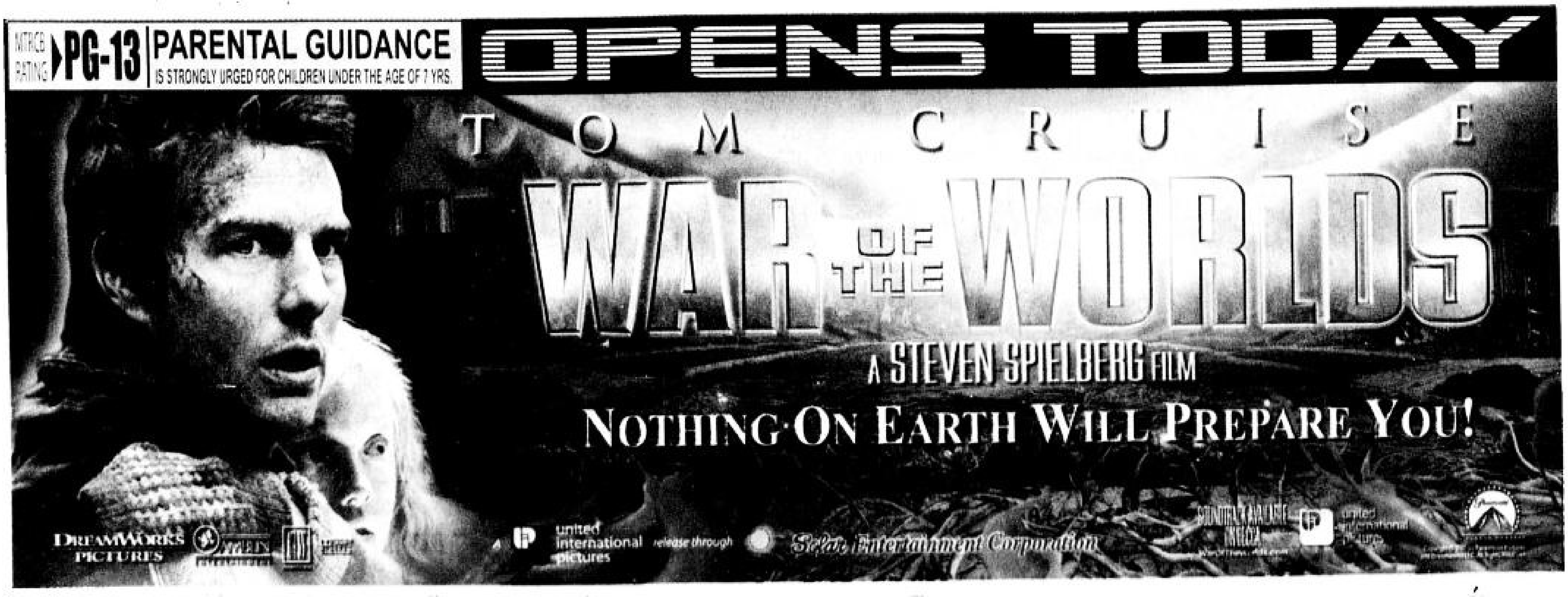
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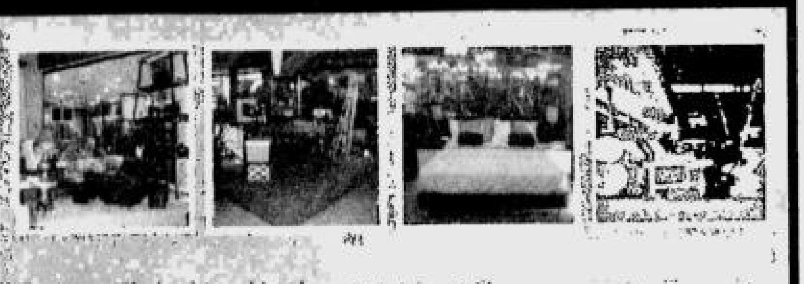

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Trouble at the Tavern

INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

By Marinel R. Cruz

SINGER-songwriter Top Suzara has decided to leave the popular Freestyle band after nine years of being lead male vocalist, not because he is "sick" or "going solo."

The band's manager, Suzara says, "lacks concrete plans for the band's future."

On April 25, during a gig at the Tavern in Greenbelt, Makati City, Top formally announced his decision to quit. Earlier in the day, he sent a letter saying the same to band manager Wyngard Tracy of Artistation Inc.

In the letter, Top said he could not "stay and watch while we are encouraged to hurt and use each other under a management that cares nothing for the band and our dreams."

There were "many serious concerns" brought to Tracy's attention, he added, but the latter's "lack of interest and deafening indifference have led to my distrust ... and my plain lack of confidence in your ability to manage our future, not just as Freestyle, but as individuals."

The letter hinted of a misunderstanding between Top and female vocalist Jinky Vidal, whom Tracy is reportedly grooming for a solo career. Top's cousin and Jinky's husband, Tat Suzara, is said to be caught in the middle.

Freestyle's other members are drummer Gerard Banzon, bassist Carlo Tapia and keyboardist Nikki Cabardo.

In a long, angry letter posted on the message board of www.freestyleopm.com, Top's sister Rochelle refuted what the other band members had been saying—that Top was sick or going solo.

TROUBLE/ A30

Standing room ovations and other boob-tube booboos

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

HOST: How was your concert in Japan?

Guest: Great—we even got a standing room ovation!

(Make up your mind: Was it just standing room or a standing ovation?)

* * *

Host: Tell us about your next movie.

Guest: It's a horror!

(He could be telling the truth!)

* * *

Host: What is your barangay fighting against?

Guest: There's so much crime and drugs in our place, so we are fighting because of rampant!

(Ah, so...)

* * *

Host: How can your office do the job better?

Guest: In this day and age, we need more pisticated equipment!

(*Ay, pisti...*)

* * *

Host: What was the first sign that you had arthritis—was there any warning?

Guest: No warning, just excrishooting pain in my elbow right away!

(Excrishooting pain? How excruciating!)

* * *

Host: Why were you able to listen to the controversial tape when others could not? What did you do?

Guest: Nothing, really. I just asked him, and he says we could listen it.

(*Tagalugin mo na lang kaya...*)

* * *

Host: What is your analysis of the sequence of surprising revelations and exposés in the media?

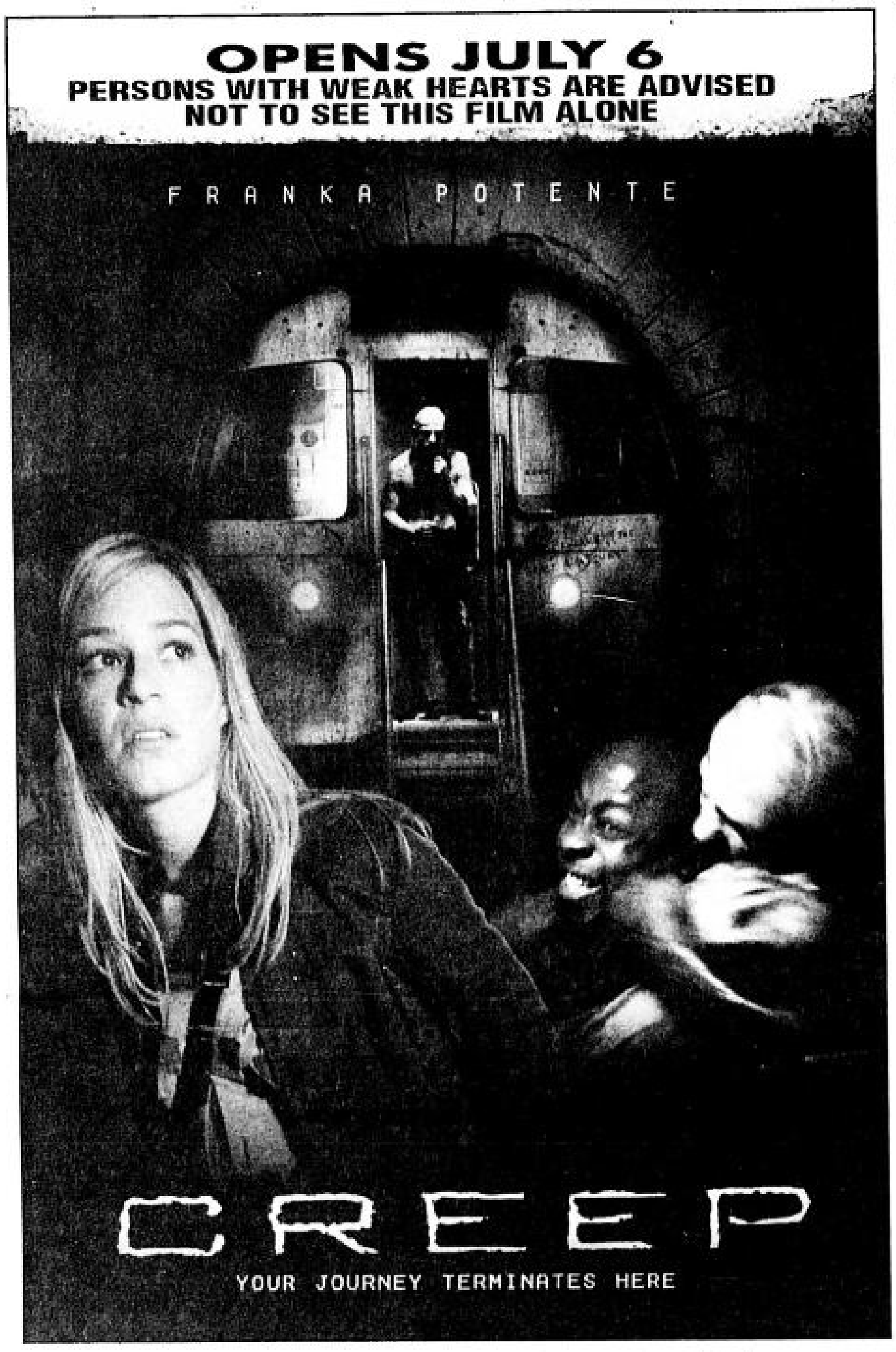
Guest: It's very clear, this is just a fart of a big master plan!

(No comment!)

* * *

Host: Did you enjoy your

STANDING/ A29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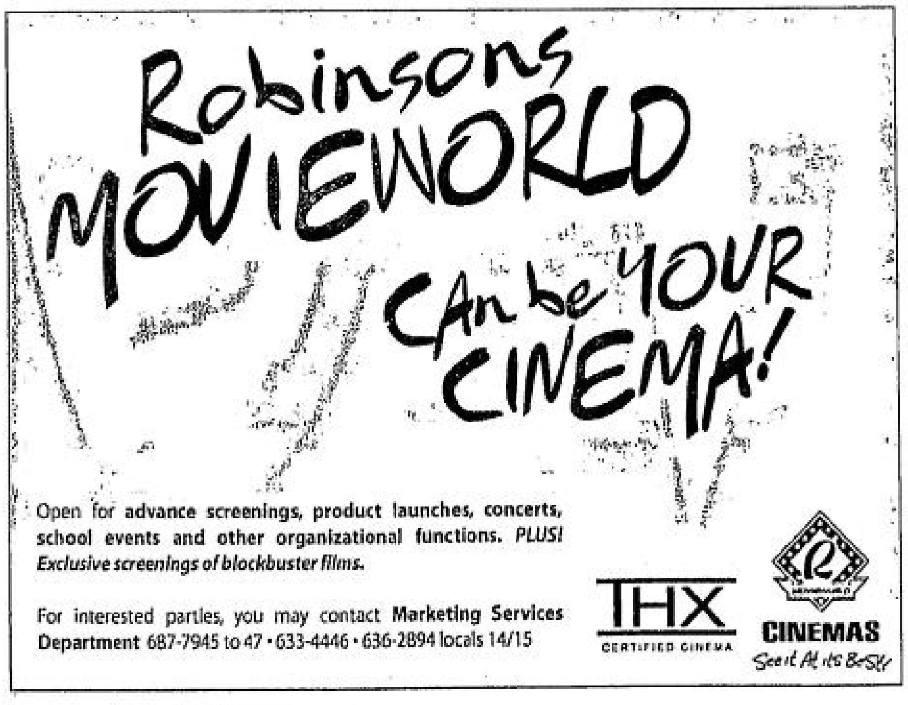

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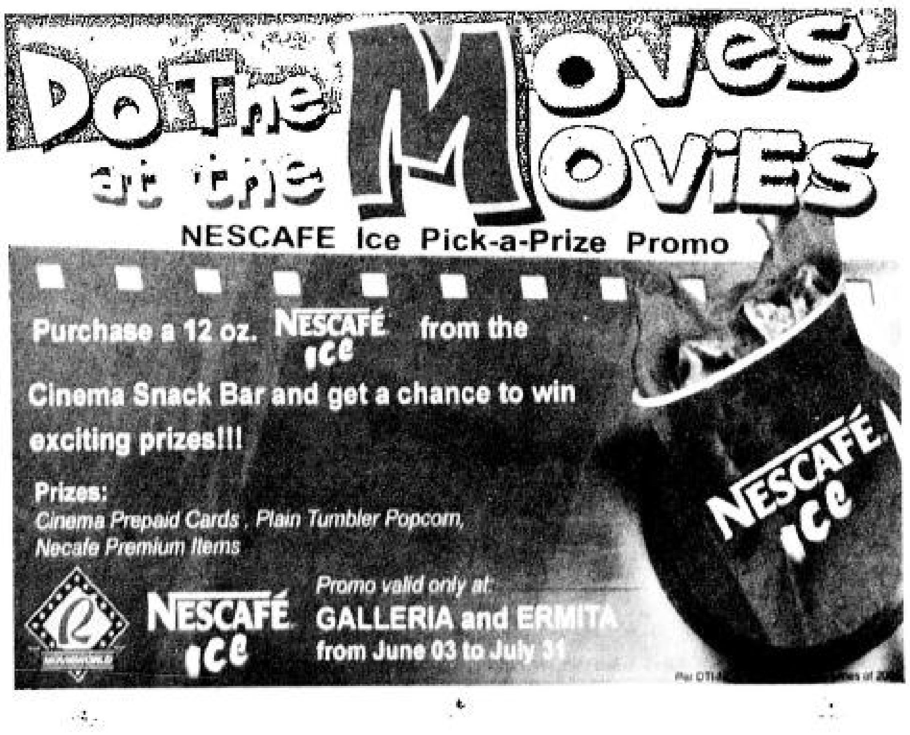

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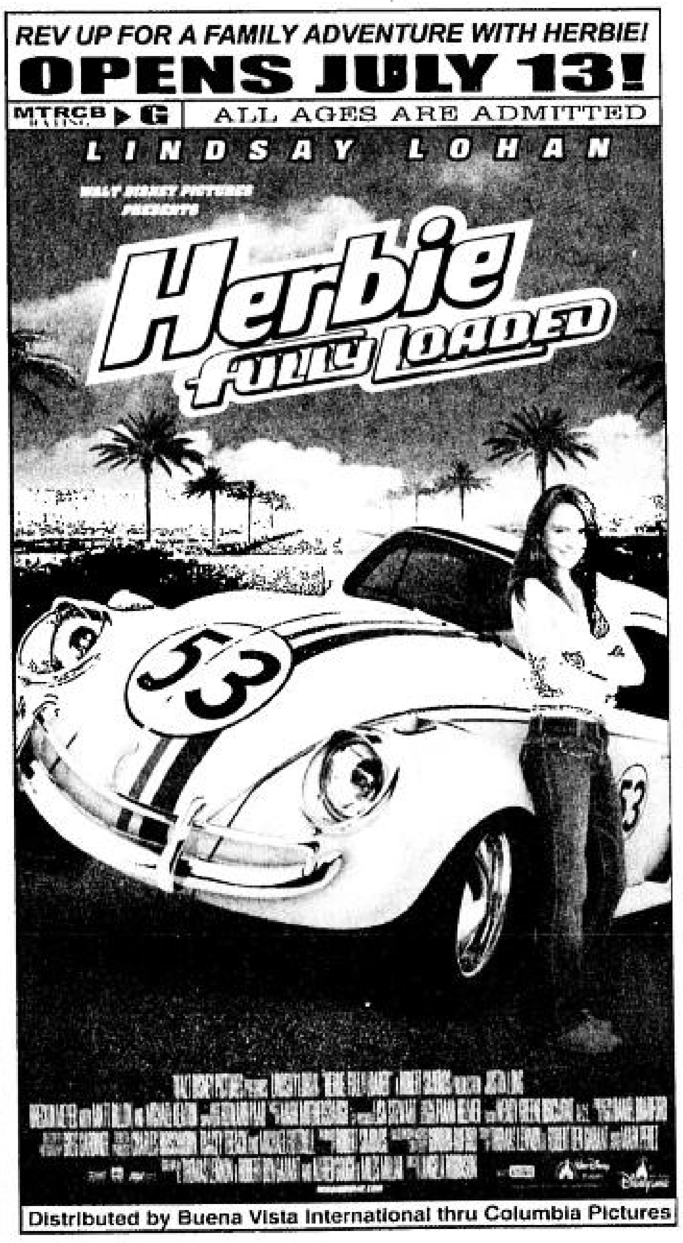
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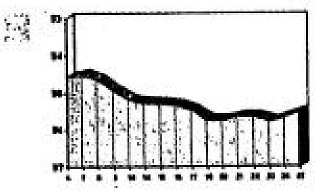
Stocks, peso wobble as marts digest GMA move

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO-DOLLAR RATE



₱ 55.690= $ 1

As of 5 p.m., June 28, 2005

¥ 109.78 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., June 28, 2005

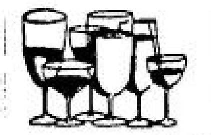
GOLD: $438.20-438.70

per ounce Hong Kong, June 28, 2005

June 28, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.822097994	1.000000	55.5550
Japan	Yen	0.007524	0.009152	0.5084
United Kingdom	Pound	1.503535	1.828900	101.6045
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.105783	0.128675	7.1485
Switzerland	Franc	0.648087	0.788333	43.7958
Canada	Dollar	0.668644	0.813339	45.1850
Singapore	Dollar	0.490775	0.596979	33.1652
Australia	Dollar	0.631703	0.768403	42.6886
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.180689	2.652590	147.3646
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.219221	0.266660	14.8143
Brunei	Dollar	0.489315	0.595203	33.0665
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000085	0.000104	0.0058
Thailand	Baht	0.020002	0.024331	1.3517
UAE	Dirham	0.223834	0.272272	15.1261
Euro	Euro	1	1.216400	67.5771
Argentina	Peso	0.285203	0.346921	19.2732
Brazil	REAL	0.3451	0.419780	23.3209
Denmark	Kroner	0.134246	0.163297	9.0720
India	Rupee	0.018925	0.023020	1.2789
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.21637	0.263193	14.6217
Mexico	New Peso	0.076141	0.092618	5.1454
New Zealand	Dollar	0.580578	0.706215	39.2338
Norway	Kroner	0.125742	0.152952	8.4972
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013768	0.016748	0.9304
South Africa	Rand	0.124372	0.151286	8.4047
Korea	Won	0.000812	0.000988	0.0549
Sweden	Kroner	0.106282	0.129282	7.1823
Syria	Pound	0.015837	0.019264	1.0702
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.026251	0.031932	1.7740

WHAT'S INSIDE

PSE market value hit P2T in May /B2



/B3

RP firms push for auto export scheme /B4

By Doris C. Dumlao and Elizabeth L. Sanchez

FINANCIAL markets were a bit shaken but not stirred by President Macapagal-Arroyo's admission that hers was the voice in a wiretapped conversation with an election official about last year's presidential polls, analysts said yesterday.

"Her admission will undoubtedly impart a negative tone to the markets in the near-term. The opposition will take the situation as a rallying point to unseat her," said Banco de Oro Universal Bank chief strategist Jonathan Ravelas.

"However, the pressure on Arroyo does not seem to be growing. The opposition is having trouble raising popular anger and is making little headway legally," he said.

Ravelas said there were signs that the popular interest on the matter was waning and her earlier silence was the opposition's sole rallying call.

Most analysts agreed that the political tension arising from the bombshell against the President would fizzle out very soon.

"Arroyo's admission is unlikely to draw the curtains on this entire political drama immediately but we view it as a step forward to diffuse the tension," said Singapore-based Tim Condon of ING Bank.

"We expect the politics to fade from view gradually and allow the economic fundamentals to reassert their strength on the financial asset prices," Condon said.

Jojo Gonzales, an analyst with local stock brokerage Philippine Equity Partners Inc. (PEP), said: "We think the admission and apology was well calculated, weighing the cost of prolonged silence against an opportunity for closure."

"However, having seen little sympathy gathered by the opposition so far, closure was within reach," he said.

Gonzales said the President's supporters at the Lower House were likely to cut short the inquiry into the controversial wiretapping.

"If at all, the Senate inquiry into illegal gambling by her family members may continue but this does not directly concern the President," he said.

The peso closed at 55.69 to the US dollar yesterday, weaker than Monday's 55.51:$1.

Peso weakens

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Officer in Charge Amando Tetangco Jr. said there was kneejerk reaction when the spot foreign exchange market opened yesterday, but claimed the overall impact of the President's statement was in fact favorable.

The peso opened weak at 55.65 yesterday and was afterwards pulled down to an intraday low of 55.68 to the dollar.

"Then the peso recovered. In fact, it traded better than (Monday) until corporate demand started to come out," Tetangco said.

He noted that the oil and manufacturing sectors scrambled to fill out month-end foreign exchange requirements.

STOCKS/B4

Execs laud GMA apology

By Ronnel W. Domingo

EMPLOYERS and private industries yesterday said President Macapagal-Arroyo's apology over calling an election official last year should have settled the issue and put the matter behind.

In separate interviews, officials of the Employers Confederation of the Philippines and the Federation of Philippine Industries also called on those who wanted to remove the President from office to uphold the Constitution and abide by the rule of law.

FPI president Jesus Arranza said it was rare for a President to admit some lapses and apologize and "it was heartening."

"We believe she has been doing great in so far as addressing the country's economic problems," Arranza said. "We hope that her apology would usher in a period of reconciliation (between the administration and those who oppose it)."

EXECS/B4

ENJOYING brisk business is this woman vendor selling rosaries next to a portrait of the late Jaime Cardinal Sin outside the Manila Cathedral, where the remains of the Cardinal was interred for public viewing. Sin helped topple two presidencies and has led the Catholic Philippines in turbulent times. He died last week from multiple organ failure. He was 76. AFP

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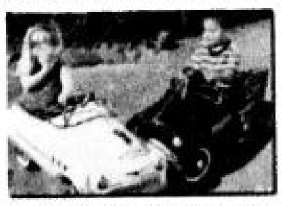

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PSE market value hit ₱2T in May

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE MARKET value of domestic companies traded on the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) surged 46 percent during the first five months of the year to P2 trillion from P1.4 trillion a year ago, according to PSE President Francis Lim.

Market capital is calculated by multiplying the company's number of outstanding shares by the prevailing market price.

If Manulife Financial Corp. and Sun Life Financial are included, total market capitalization increased 25 percent to P5 trillion from P4 trillion in 2004.

These two foreign firms accounted for 60 percent of the total market capitalization.

"This significant leap was a result of the general up-trend of market prices, together with the listing of four companies from June 2004 to May this year," Lim said.

Last year, PetroEnergy Resources Corp. was listed by way of introduction, while International Exchange Bank, the sole initial public offering (IPO) last year, was listed in December.

Manila Water Company Inc. (MWC) and SM Investments Corp. (SM), both listed in March this year.

As of May, PERC increased its market capitalization to P200 million, Ibank to P6 billion, Manila Water to P12.5 billion, while SM contributed P132.5 billion.

These four companies accounted for a combined 3 percent of total market capitalization, and 8 percent of domestic market capitalization.

The general rise in market prices was also supported by improved market activity as evidenced by the increase in value turnover, which went up 162 percent to P196.5 billion from P74.9 billion a year ago.

Among the PSE sectors, the mining sector posted the highest growth in both market capitalization and value turnover, following renewed interest in mining stocks.

T-bond rate down to 11.76%

By Michelle V. Remo

THE COST of the government's 10-year borrowings dropped by a significant 61.5 basis points to 11.76 percent yesterday, as the cash-rich market placed the bulk of its investments in "safer" long-term government securities.

"Political concerns have no bearing because 10 years is too far," said National Treasurer Omar Cruz in a press briefing after yesterday's auction of the 10-year Treasury bonds.

Cruz said the decline in the 10-year T-bond rate was an indication the market was judging the government based on economic fundamentals rather than on what's going on in the political front.

There was a big appetite for the long-term government security, with bids reaching P13.228 billion, or more than three times the P4 billion that the government required.

Cruz noted that the latest T-bond rate was even lower than the 12.19 percent recorded in the secondary market.

The treasurer said that despite grave political concerns, fixed-income investors remained bullish about the national government's long-term prospects, particularly in regard to the budget deficit. The government expects to wipe out its budget deficit, which stood at P187 billion last year, on or before 2010.

He credited fiscal reforms, such as the passage of the value-added tax bill, which investors welcomed.

Prior to the enactment of the VAT law, Omar said, appetite for long-term government securities was not as high as yesterday's.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of June 28, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	3.65	3.65	3.65	3.65	2,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	31	31.5	31	31	695,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	49.5	49.5	48.5	49.5	851,000
China Banking Corp.	775	775	770	770	540
Citystate Savings Bank	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	300
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.56	0.57	0.56	0.57	330,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	50	50	49.5	49.5	2,000
International Exch. Bank	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	21,500
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	30	30.5	29.5	29.5	500,000
Prudential Bank	400	400	400	400	610
Philippine National Bank	42	45.5	42	44.5	215,200
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	11.25	11.25	11.25	11.25	3,000
Security Bank Corp.	25	25	25	25	70,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	29.5	30	29	29.5	99,800
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Manulife Financial Corp.	2665	2665	2665	2665	110
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	31,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1835	1835	1835	1835	510
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	11	11	10.5	11	23,100
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.06	1.08	1.06	1.08	1,663,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	800	805	800	800	4,120
Ipeople Inc.	4	4.1	4	4	103,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.047	0.049	0.047	0.049	1,100,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	1.92	1.92	1.92	1.92	4,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3	3.05	3	3.05	1,798,000
Transpacific Broadcast	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	25,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1635	1645	1630	1640	249,970
Ivantage Corp.	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	240,000
Philweb Corp.	0.017	0.017	0.017	0.017	3,700,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	15	15.25	15	15.25	6,400
Manila Electric Co. B	22.5	22.75	22.5	22.5	62,900
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	2,825,000
Petron Corp.	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05	867,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.92	1.92	1.9	1.9	145,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	100,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	7.6	7.6	7.6	7.6	36,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.08	1.08	100,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	30,000
Fortune Cement Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	110,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25	120,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	71,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	31	31	31	31	500
Jollibee Foods Corp.	28.5	29	28.5	29	9,800
Rfm Corp.	0.82	0.82	0.82	0.82	180,000
San Miguel Corp. A	58	58.5	58	58.5	206,300
San Miguel Corp. B	94	94	94	94	17,300
Universal Robina Corp.	16	16	16	16	37,400
Vitarich Corp.	0.25	0.27	0.25	0.27	210,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	10,000,000
Ayala Corp.	327.5	327.5	322.5	325	135,190
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.75	4.8	4.75	4.75	525,000
Ajo.Net Holdings, Inc.	0.03	0.03	0.029	0.029	4,300,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2	2	1.94	1.96	95,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.57	0.57	0.57	0.57	340,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.68	1.68	1.68	1.68	19,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	11.75	11.75	11.75	11.75	1,600
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.04	1.06	1.02	1.06	9,779,000
Basic Consolidated, Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.16	0.16	210,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	500,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	2.6	2.6	2.55	2.55	829,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	1,150,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	7.3	7.4	7.3	7.4	497,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	47	47	46.5	46.5	249,400
House Of Investments Inc.	1	1.04	1	1.02	3,004,000
Ionics Inc.	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	69,000
Jardine Davies, Inc.	21	21	21	21	16,500
J.G. Summit Holdings, Inc.	3.75	3.75	3.6	3.65	1,549,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	458,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.36	0.37	0.36	0.36	4,760,000
Philcomsat Holdings Corp.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	10,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.99	0.99	0.99	0.99	100,000
SM Investments Corp.	252.5	255	252.5	255	770,240
South China Resources Inc.	0.58	0.58	0.58	0.58	10,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	700,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.24	1.3	1.24	1.3	90,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	1.06	1.1	1.06	1.1	8,199,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.06	1.08	1.04	1.08	1,530,000
Manila Jockey Club	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	24,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.3	0.31	0.3	0.31	200,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(Pdr)	10.75	10.75	10.5	10.5	505,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	8.2	8.2	8.1	8.1	7,665,000
Cityland Development Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	150,000
C&P Homes Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	250,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	360,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.38	0.38	0.37	0.37	2,160,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.42	1.46	1.42	1.46	2,659,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	2.22	2.22	2.22	2.22	2,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	780,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	160,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	50,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.195	0.195	0.195	0.195	130,000
SM Development Corp.	1.38	1.5	1.38	1.5	17,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.7	7.7	7.7	7.7	583,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	10,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	162,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	5,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.35	0.36	0.35	0.36	6,480,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.37	0.37	0.36	0.37	5,020,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.017	0.017	0.015	0.015	17,100,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	12,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0055	0.006	0.0055	0.006	6,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	10,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	1.02	1.02	1	1	2,206,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	28	28	25.5	25.5	902,200
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.23	0.23	0.22	0.225	570,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	48,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	240,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	10,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	205,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.145	1,750,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	400,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc	3,022,570	101,390,895.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	64,665,720	758,823,440.00
PRO	14,957,000	72,452,180.00
Mining	50,465,200	31,593,010.00
OIL	50,605,000	1,274,750.00
SME	3,000	6,720.00
GRAND TOTALS :	183,718,490	965,549,995.00

	AVERAGES	
Bank & Fin Svc	562.16	UP 3.48
Comm'l & Ind'l	3,077.51	DOWN 8.47
PRO	732.79	DOWN 17.73
Mining	2,864.84	UP 14.16
OIL	2.47	DOWN 0.16
SME	100.00	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	1,187.02	DOWN 4.29
Composite	1,955.20	DOWN 8.30

NO. OF ADVANCES: 24, NO. OF DECLINES: 46, NO. OF UNCHANGED: 42, NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 112, NO. OF TRADES: 2,193

DISCLOSURES

EURO-MED Laboratories Philippines Inc. will list on June 30 an additional 220 million common shares, with a par value of P1 a share, to cover the 10-percent stock dividend declaration to stockholders of record as of June 7.

***

PRUDENTIAL Bank extended the employment of the following to Dec. 31: executive vice president A. Benedicto Santos, senior vice presidents Lauro Jocson and Manolo Hilario, first vice president Felipe Gella and vice president Rodolfo Martinez.

***

RIZAL Commercial Banking Corp. elected as directors Alfonso Yuchengco, Rizalino Navarro, Cesar Virata, Francisco Magsajo Jr., Helen Dee, Susanne Santos, Alfonso Yuchengco Jr., Teodoro Regala, Masaharu Oshima, Koji Onozawa, Ma. Cecilia Fernandez-Estavillo, Teodoro Pena, Armando Medina, Francis Estrada and Francis Laurel. It appointed Sycip, Gorres, Velayo & Co. as external auditor.

***

RFM Corp. reported a net income of P4 million for the first quarter of 2005. It lost P30 million in the same period last year.

***

CHINA Banking Corp. disclosed that its amended articles of incorporation and increase in capital stock have yet to be approved by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

***

ORIENTAL Petroleum and Minerals Corp. moved its annual stockholders' meeting from June 30 to July 14. *Compiled by Cyril L. Bonabente, PDI Research*

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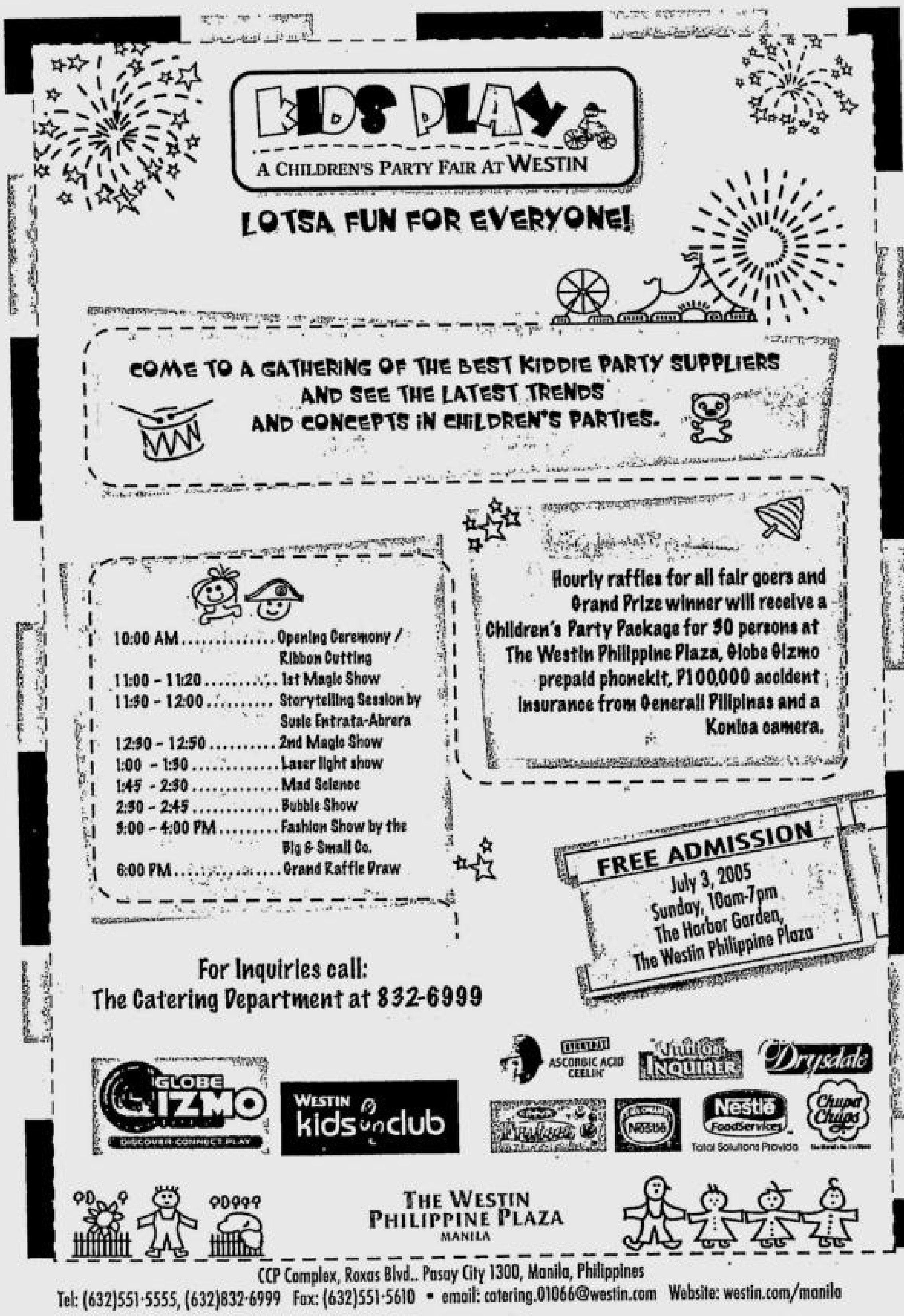

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NED ROBERTO, PhD is one of Asia's leading authorities on marketing. He is a much sought after consultant, speaker, author, and educator. He has taught at De La Salle University in Manila, Northwestern University in Chicago and INSEAD in France. He was professor of International Marketing at the Asian Institute of Management for 29 years. In 1983, he received the Philippine Marketing Association's Agora Award for Marketing Education, and in 2004, he was awarded the 1st Lifetime Achievement Award from the Association of Marketing Educators.
Dr. Roberto has consulted and conducted in-house seminars for Fortune 500 companies in the U.S., Europe and Asia such as Procter & Gamble, Citibank, McCann-Erickson, Nestle, AC Nielsen, etc. He is the author (with Philip Kotler) of Social Marketing, which has been translated into seven languages, as well as the best-selling User Friendly Marketing Research and several other books and countless papers on marketing.
Dr. Roberto earned his MBA and PhD in Marketing at Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Business.
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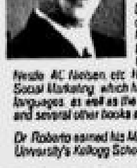

UP clears 'suicide' committee

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

THE UNIVERSITY of the Philippines has cleared the admissions committee of any impropriety in rejecting the 2003 application of a son of Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago to enter the UP College of Law.

Despite his subsequent acceptance at the Ateneo de Manila, Santiago's son, Alexander Robert, took his own life six months later, a tragedy that the then distraught senator attributed to her son's having failed to enter his parents' alma mater.

Santiago in particular blamed inappropriate questions allegedly asked of and remarks allegedly given to her son by the admissions committee, composed of professors Concepcion Jardeleza (chair), Elizabeth Aguiling-Pangalangan, Carmelo Sison, Dante Gatmaytan, Rowena Daroy-Morales and Florin Hilbay.

"People may disagree as to the propriety of the questions asked of Mr. Santiago, depending on their sensibilities and opinion as regards the range of subjects that members of the Admissions Committee may pick and choose to determine whether an applicant possesses the ability to withstand the challenging environment in the law school," the committee said in a statement.

"The point to be made…is that the Admissions Committee was not motivated by discriminatory animus when it interviewed Mr. Santiago."

The statement was released after the UP Law faculty met earlier this month to discuss how to respond to Senator Santiago's letter following up on the results of the inquiry.

Another committee, chaired by Araceli Baviera, also released another report essentially upholding the admission committee's version of the events.

The admissions committee recalled that it considered the application of Santiago in May 2003, along with those of 2,143 others. Out of the total, the committee interviewed 244 applicants.

In addition to the young Santiago, 66 other applicants who were interviewed by the committee were denied admission into the law school, despite 22 of them having obtained a general weighted average of 90 percent and higher in their pre-law degrees.

Even a written appeal from the student's father, former Local Governments Secretary Narciso Santiago, failed to move the committee to reconsider and admit his son.

"To be sure, it is difficult to reconstruct a particular interview among several hundred others, all of which took place more than two years ago," the committee said. "The problem of treachery of memory is complexed by the fact that the basis of Sen. Santiago's allegation is a general recollection of what her deceased son (had) communicated to her."

"It is unfortunate that the good Senator believes that the Admission Committee is somehow responsible for the death of her son," the committee said. "We commiserate with her pain as a mother and a human being who suffered a tragic loss."

"At the same time, we think it is unfair to make conclusions a step detached from fact and reason.

"As the facts show, Alexander was interviewed not with an uneven hand nor cruelty but only in a manner consistent with our public duties as teachers."

Public funds, private hands

AFTER using GSIS and SSS funds to acquire PCIBank, the Go family of Equitable Bank now says it cannot accede to a government request to stop the Gos from voting for themselves the 10-percent block being held by a bank subsidiary.

Equitable PCIBank chair Antonio Go last week wrote GSIS president Winston Garcia to deny the GSIS demand that the Gos distribute prorata among major shareholders like GSIS and SSS the votes from the 10-percent block, instead of the Gos using the block to maintain their "artificial majority" in the bank board.

According to the grapevine, the GSIS has been left with no recourse but to sue the Gos again, like what it did last year when GSIS obtained a temporary restraining order from the Pasay Regional Trial Court.

Despite the court victory and an opinion from the Bangko Sentral upholding the prorata distribution, the GSIS was unable to enforce the ruling after the Go-led management disenfranchised one of the two GSIS nominees to the Equitable-PCIBank board during last year's stockholders' meeting.

This time, according to the grapevine, the Social Security System would join the GSIS in the planned court action before next month's meeting.

To counter the Bangko Sentral ruling, Go also hired four big law firms, who all submitted opinions saying the Go-installed board of the bank subsidiary, EBC Investments, "exercises all attributes of ownership" over the 10-percent block, "including the right to vote in the manner it deems proper and lawful."

To fend off the GSIS and SSS, the Gos have increasingly relied on the block of "independent" directors led by Roberto R. Romulo to keep the family's one-vote lead in the board, prompting Garcia to ask Equitable PCIBank to disclose how much donations the bank had given to the Romulo Foundation for Peace and Development.

The foundation is chaired by Peter Go Pailan, Equitable PCIBank chair emeritus.

Heard through the grapevine

THE 10-HECTARE Boracay property bought by the Shangri-La hotel chain for P356 million from Boracay resort owner Esteban Tajanlangit Jr. was acquired through funds provided by Malacañang to an NGO controlled by Tajanlangit.

Supposed to provide micro-finance lending to the rural poor, the nongovernmental organization in 2002 also bought 80 hectares of land in Boracay from the Ayalas.

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RP firms push for high-value, low-volume export scheme

By Ronnel W. Domingo

LOCAL vehicle assemblers are pushing for an automotive export scheme that will promote the trade of high-value vehicles in low-volumes in an effort to entice more participants to the program, an industry official said.

Elizabeth Lee, vice president of the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers in the Philippines Inc., said in an interview that such a policy would help make companies take advantage of the government export program for vehicles.

Lee, who is also senior vice president of Universal Motors Corp., said that her company, for instance, was looking at the possible export of pickup trucks.

She said that right now, UMC is producing different products based on a regional strategy that covered the Philippines, Thailand, Indonesia and Malaysia.

"UMC is looking for an opportunity to export completely built units," Lee said. "(The company, as well as the entire local industry, believes that) a low-volume, high-value scheme would make that possible."

She said one of the possible exports would be pickup trucks like the T3 variant of the Nissan Frontier, which UMC launched last Monday.

Last year, Malacañang issued an amendment to Executive Order No. 244 which expanded the coverage of incentives. EO No. 244 allows for the direct export of completely built units at a minimum volume of 10,000 units a year. Each unit should be worth at least $5,000 freight on board (FOB), or the cost of the cargo itself excluding freight cost.

Based on a preliminary study of the trade department, expanding the coverage of CBU export incentives would increase the production and sale of CBUs to a range of 200,000 units to 250,000 units over the next five years.

Still, Lee said lowering the volume requirement could entice more firms to take part in the program.

RFM reports modest Q1 gains

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

FOOD and beverage firm RFM Corp. reported a modest net income of P4 million for the first quarter this year, reversing its losses of P30 million for the same period last year.

Net sales grew 6 percent for the first quarter, reaching P1.4 billion from P1.32 billion in 2004. RFM also attained an operating income of P49 million for the period, a seven-fold increase from the P7 million it posted in the first quarter of 2004.

"We're just trying to start the year right, by sustaining the turnaround in operations that we began middle of last year," said Felicisimo Nacino Jr., executive vice president and chief operating officer of RFM.

Nacino pinned the positive trend to lowering costs and improving margins in the branded food business, as well as the strong performance of the flour business.

Jose A. Concepcion III, RFM president, cited "the impressive gains in building the company's milk and juice business in 2004, and the increasing market dominance of the Selecta ice cream business."

In its audited financial statements filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, RFM reported an operating income from continuing operations of P162 million for 2004, a full turnaround from its operating loss of P646 million in 2003.

Net sales for the year was basically flat at P5.85 billion, as against P5.75 billion the previous year.

Nonetheless, RFM still booked a net loss of P436 million in 2004, compared to a net loss of P455 million in 2003 from continuing operations. This was due largely to a one-time asset impairment charge of P556 million in 2004 that the company decided to take on its investment in preferred shares of Swift Foods Inc.

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Meralco to implement ₱130-M refund

By Abigail L. Ho

DISTRIBUTION utility Manila Electric Co. in July will be giving back around P130 million to some of its customers.

The refund is for the rate hike of 12 centavos per kilowatt-hour (kWh), which Meralco carried out in January 2004.

Following a legal tussle, the Supreme Court eventually issued a ruling that effectively junked Meralco's 12-centavo increase in rates.

During yesterday's stockholders meeting, Meralco chair and chief executive Manuel Lopez said the refund would go to the utility's estimated 2 million customers.

Meralco refund management task force head Leonardo Mabale said in an earlier interview that, of the full P130-million amount, P90 million could be readily refunded as there were no "issues" that had to be resolved for these customers.

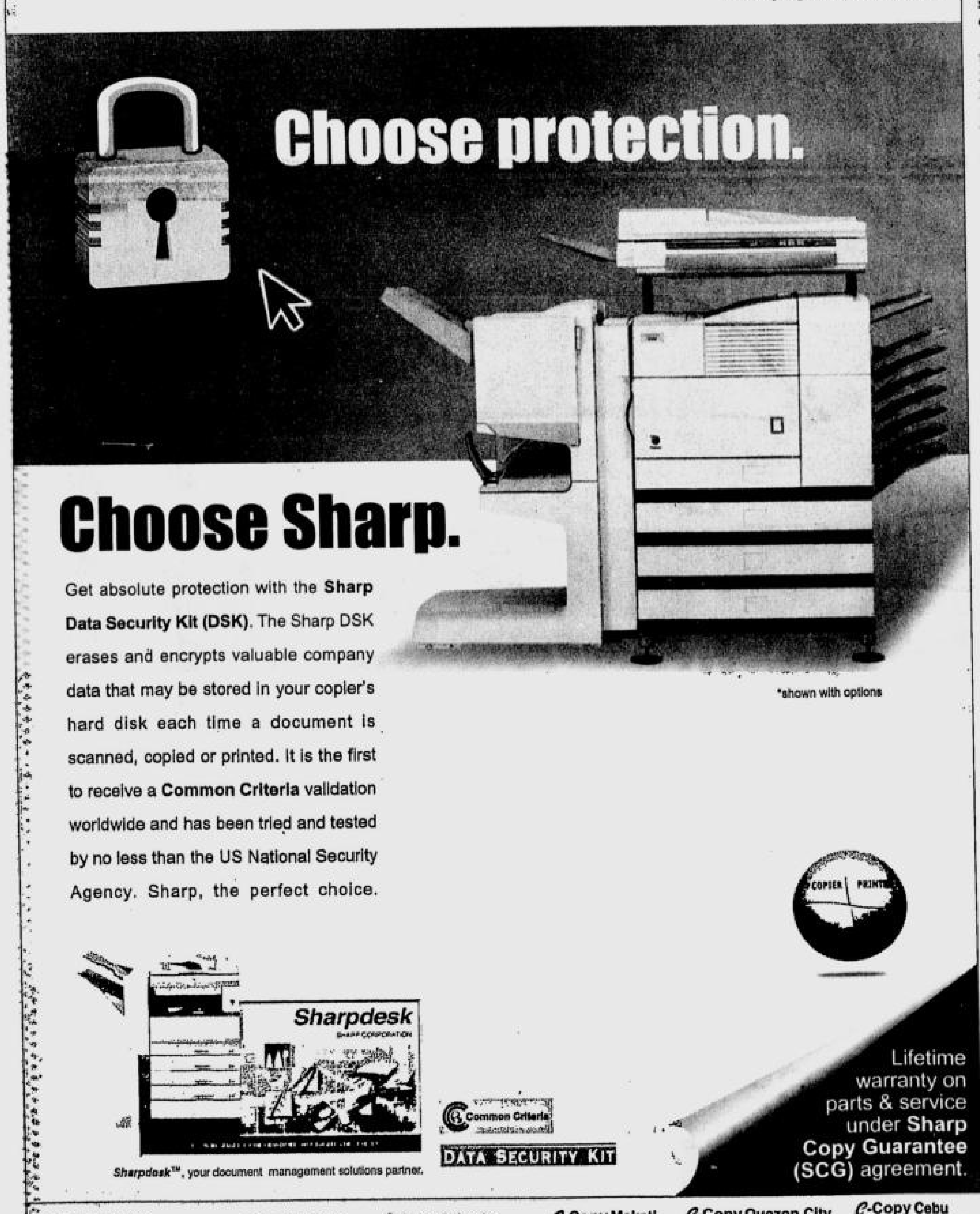
As for the remaining P40 million, there is one issue that could deter the implementation of the refund: A mistake on Meralco's part of giving larger lifeline discounts to customers consuming 71-100 kWh of electricity a month.

Instead of giving just a 20-percent discount to its customers, Mabale said Meralco gave them a 25-percent markdown on power charges.

As a result, Meralco now had collectibles from customers falling under this consumption category, he added.

Meralco vice president and utility economics head Ivanna dela Peña said in a briefing yesterday that this issue had already been resolved and that all customers charged with the higher rates in the first two weeks of January last year would be able to get their rebates.

Even those given higher discounts could get their full refund by next month as Meralco would just count the higher discounts as part of its cross-subsidy related under-recoveries, she explained.



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Stocks, peso wobble . . .

From page B1

"Our feedback is that it (admission) was generally positive. The others are indifferent," he said.

"When you say indifferent, they're really looking at economic fundamentals. They're trying to see through the noise and therefore their decisions are based on what they see are being accomplished on the economic side, where you have some positive developments," he explained.

Over the near-term, Ravelas said it would not be surprising to see the local currency fall against the US dollar.

"With neither a legally correct nor politically inspired impeachment drive likely, and popular resentment doubtful—particularly without the support of the Catholic Church and the civil society and a suitable replacement for GMA—anticipating an Estrada-type ouster is too premature at this time," BDO's Ravelas said.

He said the local currency was expected to trade within the 55.35-to-56 range for the meantime pending further developments in Congress.

Stocks slightly lower

In the stock market, share prices closed 0.42 percent lower yesterday as investors waited to see how the latest twist in allegations of vote rigging and corruption against President Arroyo play out, dealers said.

They said trade was cautious after Ms Arroyo's apology.

The Philippine Stock Exchange shed 8.30 points to 1,955.20 after moving between 1,952.29 and 1,963.50. Volume amounted to 185 million shares worth P966 million. The broader all-shares index fell 4.29 points to 1,187.02.

Losers led gainers 46 to 24, with 42 stocks unchanged.

"Overall, I think the market is trying to digest what she said. The consensus among analysts and investors is it's a positive development. The whole issue will die down," Allan Yu, vice-president at fund manager Metrobank Trust Banking Group, said.

Jose Mari Lacson, analyst at CitisecOnline.Com Phils. Inc., said the President's admission drew no major reaction from investors yesterday.

"The market's decline was not substantial and it was confined to specific stocks. To my mind that means that the news was largely ignored. If the issue is whether foreign investors were frightened, I think not," Lacson said.

He added that one barometer to determine foreign investor reaction was telephone giant Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. which managed to gain P5 to P1,640.

"It's traded at the New York Stock Exchange and its share price should have reacted negatively as soon as (Ms Arroyo) made the announcement. But it didn't. So really it's a no reaction (from foreign investors)," Lacson said.

"The market is actually resilient despite the lingering political uncertainties. We did not see any panic (despite Ms Arroyo's statement)," said Nestor Aguila of DA Market Securities.

"It was more of a continuing technical correction after the market's rise recently," he remarked.

Step forward

ING Financial Markets, in a note, said it views Ms Arroyo's admission as a step forward in diffusing current political tensions.

"We expect politics to fade from view gradually and allow economic fundamentals to reassert their strength on financial asset prices," it said, citing in particular the progress on the government's fiscal reforms.

Vittorio Gomez, head of trading at fund manager RCBC Trust, said the stock market was currently trading based on values of stocks more than the general sentiment over political developments.

"We've been very conservative (since the political noise erupted). We've been trading on value. All our optimism has been tempered. We've anticipated that political noise will cause volatility," Gomez added. With a report from AFP

Execs laud GMA . . .

From page B1

Ecop president Rene Y. Soriano said it was good the the Chief Executive has "come out in the open, which hopefully would put an end to speculations."

Ms Arroyo's enemies insists that she made the call amid a massive effort of election rigging.

The President, for her part, insisted that she had won the election in 2004 and that the call she made to an Comelec official did not influence the results of the polls.

Soriano called on those who oppose the administration "to observe the Constitutional process," saying they were free to do what they wanted as long as this was within the rule of law.

"As far as business in concerned, we are apolitical," Soriano said. "What we are after is good governance, transparency and political stability to allow business to continue to grow."

He added that whether there was cheating in the last election was still to be proven and that there were legal means to do this.

"We don't believe the President's resignation would patch things up," Arranza said. "The Constitution provides other means for those who want her removed."

Also, he said a snap election would not work since it would also be open to accusations of cheating.

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Crude trades above $60/barrel on supply fears

BUSINESSBRIEF

Wal-Mart heir dies in crash

NEW YORK—Billionaire John Walton, the second son of Wal-Mart Stores Inc. founder Sam Walton and a Wal-Mart board member, died on Monday when a small plane he was piloting crashed shortly after take-off near his Wyoming home. Walton, 58, is ranked 11th on Forbes magazine's most recent list of the world's richest people, with a net worth estimated at $18.2 billion. *Reuters*

Sino bank to raise $12B

BEIJING—China's biggest bank ICBC has won approval to issue 100 billion yuan ($12.1 billion) in subordinated bonds in its latest move to shore up capital levels ahead of a planned stock listing. The Industrial and Commercial Bank of China, which received a smaller-than-expected $15-billion cash bailout in April, may start by issuing a 12-billion yuan tranche.

"We've won approval to issue a total of 100 billion yuan in debt," a source at the bank said. "But that doesn't mean we issue it all in one go. We'll do this in batches." *Reuters*

BOJ: Loose policy needed

TOKYO—Bank of Japan Deputy Governor Toshiro Muto on Tuesday said that all nine of the central bank's policy board members believe monetary policy should be kept loose for now despite conflicting views over its funds target. Two board members have called for the central bank to lower its target for extra funds in the banking system, but the majority is worried that such a move would be perceived by markets as a sign of monetary tightening. *Reuters*

ECONOMICS OF DUMPING A FIANCE

Gan Xiaoge works as a kitchen cabinet saleswoman in Beijing. China's economic reforms have not only changed people's fortunes but their views about marriage and what they look for in a partner. Gan, 26, was once engaged, but she had to dump her fiance last year because he seemed incapable of ever matching her salary. AFP

SINGAPORE—Crude oil futures held above US$60 a barrel Tuesday, lingering near its record closing mark overnight, fueled by persistent supply fears and compounded by uncertainty over foreign involvement in Iran's oil market, following the surprise election of a hardline president.

Elsewhere, a fresh warning over a possible recession in Asia was issued and a prolonged refinery outage in Texas added to woes as America's appetite for crude showed no signs of slowing down.

Mid-afternoon in Singapore, front-month August crude on the New York Mercantile Exchange was trading at US$60.23 a barrel, down slightly from its record close of US$60.35.

The contract flirted with the US$61 a barrel mark before settling at US$60.54, a gain of 70 cents. It was the third straight day of record closing prices.

Prices are more than 65 percent above year-ago levels, but would still have to top US$90 to reach the inflation-adjusted high set in 1980.

Heating oil, meanwhile, was in the red at US$1.6745 a gallon while gasoline futures was slightly up at US$1.6777 a gallon. On London's International Petroleum Exchange, August Brent traded 28 cents lower at US$59.02 a barrel.

Prices were buoyed after the weekend election of Tehran mayor Mahmoud Ahmadinejad as Iran's president. He said he would boost the transparency of his nation's oil deals, clamp down on the country's oil "mafias," give Iranians a share of oil revenue and pursue a nuclear energy program.

2005 demand is expected to top 84 million barrels daily, and many analysts believe there is not enough of a supply cushion to cover the market from any prolonged output disruption. Excess production capacity is estimated to be about 1.5 million barrels a day, most of it in Saudi Arabia.

In Asia, Japanese Finance Minister Sadakazu Tanigaki said Tuesday both oil producers and consumers should begin to take steps to deal with lofty oil prices, adding Tokyo was monitoring the price movement "carefully."

Morgan Stanley economist Andy Xie warned "Asia could slide into recession" if prices do not fall back. *AP*

Asia stock markets edge up, wary about US Fed

SINGAPORE—Asian stock markets were mostly higher on Tuesday but record-high oil prices capped gains, while major currencies paused ahead of a US Federal Reserve policy meeting and a key business confidence survey in Japan.

MSCI's index of non-Japan Asian share markets was up 0.2 percent at 0640 GMT, but its technology component was down 0.3 percent.

Investors in Tokyo have the Bank of Japan's quarterly "tankan" survey of business sentiment to contend with on Friday.

Even so, Tokyo's Nikkei share average rallied 0.87 percent after falling 1.06 percent to a 2-week closing low on Monday.

"The market seems to have factored in the Fed's 25 basis point hike and good results in the tankan survey," said Yoshihiko Kosuga, deputy general manager at Mizuho Investors Securities Co.

Seoul's benchmark Korea Composite Stock Price Index ended up 0.37 percent.

Taipei's TAIEX was volatile as Fubon Securities cleared up a trading error, buying shares for its own account after erroneously putting in a big order for a client the previous day. The index ended up 0.22 percent.

The Australian market was boosted by demand for bank and mining stocks, lifting the S&P/ASX 200 index 0.94 percent, while Hong Kong's blue-chip Hang Seng Index was up 0.2 percent.

A sales warning from Singapore-based Creative Technology Ltd., whose Nomad and Zen digital audio players compete with Apple Computer Inc.'s iPod, pushed its shares down 10 percent.

The Straits Times Index was down 0.2 percent. *Reuters*

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PEOPLE at WORK

Editor Raul O. Marcelo
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Text us your feedback: inquirer paw name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Pinoy guides Asians through their journey in Africa

By Candy G. Villanueva
Contributor

ALL ABOUT WORK

THERE was a solar eclipse that morning in the secret paradise of Mombo deep within the Moremi Game Reserve in Botswana. Victor Dizon and his crew were out in the bush hoping to spot wildlife in action when everything was suddenly covered in darkness. In the temporary darkness, the nocturnal animals started coming out thinking it was time to hunt. Suddenly, a leopard jumped from a tree and stealthily moved deep in the shadows towards a spotted prey. Its rosette-patterned coat glistened while its huge, long tail swished gently as it slowly moved in for the kill. Without warning, the leopard pounced on a baby impala right in front of Dizon's safari group as they watched in awe and fear.

"I have so many that I can probably write a short book on my experiences," shares Dizon on his adventures as he leads several Asians through African safaris. As managing director of Asia to Africa Safaris (A to A Safaris), Dizon's mission is to introduce Asians to Africa. A to A is a Pan-Asian company run by Filipinos. They have offices in Singapore, Hong Kong and Manila that organizes customized safaris in Southern Africa for Asians.

Banking to safaris

Before he was navigating guests through hundreds of hippos in the Zambezi River or hiding behind bushes from a rampaging rhino, Dizon was dealing with figures and currencies. He worked for several years as an investment banker with Morgan Stanley in New York, Hong Kong and London. Having lived and worked in several countries, Dizon acquired the taste for traveling and experiencing different cultures. Over a decade ago, his desire to see the world brought him to the wildlife reserves of Africa. "We immediately fell in love with the place and realized that this was the ultimate travel experience and destination for the person who loves to travel and has been everywhere," shares Dizon.

Unfortunately, according to Dizon, many Asian travelers would consider Africa as their last choice to visit because of several preconceived notions like distance, safety and convenience. Most would rather spend their holidays seeing the Eiffel tower or skiing in the Alps because there is a lack of information and awareness about African safaris. On top of that, most travel agencies in Asia do not have the knowledge, experience and relationships to organize a safari in Africa.

Opportunity in the bush

Dizon remembers his first few trips to Africa organized by specialist safari companies in the UK, South Africa and the US. "It was cumbersome to have to deal with them because of communications, time zone differences, etc. And they were not really familiar with the specific nuances and requirements of Asian travelers." For instance, the western companies were not so well-informed on details like securing visas and where to get safari gear in Manila or Hong Kong.

In his first safaris, Dizon also noticed that the people in his group were the only Asian guests in the camp. The enterprising traveler saw opportunity in the situation. Soon, he was establishing contacts and good relationships with the different safari operators. "We began talking to them about setting up a safari company based in Asia that would cater specifically for the Asian market. They were very keen to work with us because they saw that we were very passionate about safaris and also this would be a new market for them since most of their clients are from Europe and the US," recalls Dizon. Since then, Dizon was informally helping friends and family organize safaris. By 2002, A to A Safaris was born.

DIZON (extreme right) with safari guides in Africa.

Rough journey

It was a rough start because people had several negative preconceived notions about Africa. They were reluctant because of issues like war, diseases and lack of good amenities. It was a challenge to convince travelers that the safari areas they operate in are peaceful and in the most progressive countries in Africa in terms of wildlife conservation and health care. Another difficulty was trying to find the right people for the team. "I think the harder part was finding like-minded individuals to work with us who feel passionate about Africa and safaris."

Because they are a service business, they didn't spend much on capital. Backed with a degree in business management and an MBA, Dizon established the business not through aggressive advertising, but mostly through referrals and word of mouth. "I think there is a lot more credibility if a third party is telling you how great their trip was rather than just hearing it from me."

Marketing the business is just part of it. The other great challenge was organizing the safaris themselves. "The most important thing is that you must be very familiar with the places that you are recommending to your clients. There is a lot of logistics involved in organizing a customized safari because the camps are in very remote places with minimal communications and infrastructure." Thorough knowledge of the business was gained through the numerous safaris he took over the years. Dizon also spent some time in South Africa working as a volunteer conservationist.

Respect for nature

During his short stint as a volunteer and based on his numerous visits to Africa, he had developed a great sense of respect and concern for nature. "I have learned to appreciate nature a lot more and I feel a lot more connected with the natural world. I am much more aware and conscious now about conservation and environmental issues since I have seen the positive and negative effects of this during my trips to Africa." Dizon carried this attitude to A to A. In fact, a certain percentage of what they charge their clients goes to conservation funds and projects like the Wilderness Trust, the Save the Rhino Trust and the Botswana Wild Dog Research Project. A to A also employs local people in the camp and shares the profits with them. By doing so, the locals are encouraged to conserve their environment. To ensure the protection and preservation of the wildlife, Dizon makes sure A to A is very selective about the safari operators that they work with and the camps they send their clients to.

Powerful experience

Dizon claims that most people come away from a safari with a much greater awareness and consciousness about conservation issues. Through the safaris, he hopes to instill in people an appreciation for the natural wonders that Africa has to offer. He believes that ecotourism is one of the best ways for people to contribute to conservation.

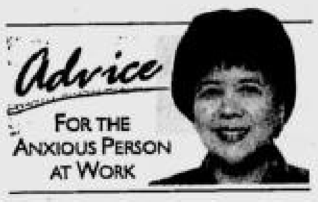
Closer to home, he hopes to inspire his Filipino clients who are businessmen or in the tourism sector to do something similar in the Philippines. In addition, he is grateful that most of his Filipino clients become informal ambassadors of tourism to the Philippines. "I find that most of the other guests on safari have not heard of or even considered going to the Philippines. But after talking to someone from the Philippines in the camp, they realize that the Philippines is an interesting place to visit on their next holiday."

Dizon feels fortunate to have had the chance to experience the mighty Okavango river or the elusive Sitatunga, the amphibious antelope. There is just so much more to see he claims, and he wishes to share this with Asia. "It is also one of the few times where people can step back in time and experience the world in its natural pristine state and with minimal human intervention and presence. This is a very powerful and moving experience that is very difficult to describe."

(*E-mail feedback to* candyvillanueva-@pldtdsl.net)

How do we move toward a politics of unity?

By Tita Datu Puangco


Advice
FOR THE ANXIOUS PERSON AT WORK

THANK you for sharing your view on the current political situation. Your article was for me the voice of the silent majority who desire peace and development. But what do we do if it was indeed President Arroyo in the Garci tape? Should we just simply ignore this fact? What are the concrete actions to move towards a politics of unity? Is new politics only for politicians? Is it not true that debates improve the quality of discussions and actions? Please share more ideas on the politics of unity.

Silent Majority Member

The politics of unity is based on fraternity. This means that all politicians are brothers and sisters to one another. Before one is a politician, one is first of all a citizen, a Christian or a Muslim. This fraternity suggests that for the common good and in basic principles such as human rights, the defense of the weak and the poor one must be able to cross party lines. It also proposes that above thinking of one's party or one's family comes concern for one's country.

Yes, in theory, the art of debate and parliamentary procedure should result in better quality conversations. This is possible if politicians are keen in discovering the best ideas without attachment to their specific decision or action. We have seen brilliant display of words and drama in Congress but one can raise the issues of sincerity and nobility of intention. Does the politician play up to the gallery or does he seek solutions that serve the common good?

Not just for politicians

Chiara Lubich says that politics, if lived well, can be "the love of all loves" because politicians can love and serve more than other people. They have the capability and opportunity if they transform themselves as good Christian Filipinos or good Muslim Filipinos to serve more than all the other professions.

Now, the politics of unity is not just for politicians. It is our duty as citizens, to constantly be aware of what is happening around us, to keep close watch and be vigilant of our elected officials. We have to congratulate them when they are doing well and to tell them when they are in the wrong. We can write them the truth but with much charity so that our words give light rather than cause disunity and discouragement. We also have to recognize that politicians are just like us—they are not perfect human beings. Just like us, they have difficult moments and may need encouragement.

Our other duty as citizens is to obey the law. Let us take our laws seriously. Laws are not simply suggestions. They are for enforcement. The norm should not be that one can get away with impunity violating the law.

Where do we begin to sow the seeds of unity? Let us start with our barangays. Twice a year, the barangay holds an assembly, let us make sure we attend and let our voices be heard. Let us move before anything goes wrong and ensure transparency and accountability at this level. If we are too busy to do our work as citizens, then we have no right to complain when graft and corruption happen. Let us begin in the family, discuss the issues of the day so that our children do not grow up ignorant and indifferent, lacking love for country.

No distractions

Now what do I think about the President and the alleged Garci tapes? I suggest that constitutional processes be pursued and that if there is wrongdoing then let the wheels of justice follow. But can we view this as a side event rather than a main event? Can we see the glass as half-full rather than half-empty? Can our working lives proceed in peace without having to be hijacked and put on hold because of these incidents?

What we have to avoid are knee-jerk reactions that distract us from processing information properly or from thinking that the solution to our national problems is only and always leadership change. Let us not allow the entire business of nation building distract us from more urgent priorities such as poverty alleviation, the creation of jobs and increasing energy costs. We cannot focus on short-term action without consideration of future consequences. We have to work like other mature democratic countries, their politics may be fraught with problems but the state continues to function.

Positive scenarios

Another thought that occurred to me is for concerned citizens in groups to build positive scenarios for the future. I believe we can move out of the cycle of ineffectiveness of our current brand of politics. I recently read a book about the South African experience on how mental breakthroughs in groups resulted in the peaceful transition and historic change doing away with apartheid. Honestly, I believe this is an important period in our history, it may be the tipping point when as responsible citizens, we define and discover the meaning of genuine politics. True politics means highlighting service and stewardship, not position and power. God bless you. God bless our country.

By the way, Ancilla invites competent English teachers to work with us part-time on a project basis. Please send your resumés to our company e-mail.

(*Ms Puangco is CEO and chair of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting. Send feedback through e-mail to* advice@ancillaedc.com.ph *or fax to* 892-2902.)

Can online learning click with the working Filipino?

By Mitchie M. Arcaina
Contributor

PEOPLE AT WORK
Pulse

IN EARLIER times, when the World Wide Web was first introduced, people considered this modern tool as a fleeting repository of information which can serve various purposes. However, the power of the Web in linking information, mostly from the developed world, grew stronger and is a part of our everyday lives today.

In this scenario, computer-mediated instructions (CMI), more commonly known as "online learning," came into being. It is gradually becoming a buzz, not only among education reformists, but also among ordinary people who desire to study and work at the same time.

Considering the emergence of online learning in the country, People at Work did a survey to find out how readers perceive online learning. What do they think are its advantages and disadvantages? What things would they consider in deciding to take CMI programs and what factors would cause them to refuse such a learning approach?

Thirty-four readers from varied communities responded, of which 62 percent are females. The mean age of the respondents is 21 and 59 percent of the total sample are from the student community. Among the employed sector, the average length of work experience is five years.

Advantages

Although 53 percent of the respondents said that they are not presently involved in online learning, they are nevertheless considering taking up a course in the future. The prospect of learning anytime anywhere can attract employees and students to take computer-mediated learning. Indeed, in this survey, convenient study schedules (85 percent) is the primary reason cited by respondents who are willing to try online education.

Fifty six percent said they are attracted to the modern and innovative learning aids while others think CMIs are economical (53 percent) and would probably make a good alternative to the traditional classroom approach (50 percent).

Disadvantages

Based on the survey results, Filipino learners seem more comfortable and secure in face-to-face learning activities with their teachers. Sixty-eight percent of the respondents said that the main disadvantage of computer-mediated learning is the absence of interaction with the instructor.

Forty-seven percent were concerned about having technical and computer-related problems while 41 percent thought that only a few training or degree programs are offered online. While the latter may be true in the Philippines, western-based institutions host quite a number of degree programs both at the undergraduate and graduate levels and continue to introduce new programs every year.

Only 26 percent considered "technophobia" or fear of technology as a factor in discouraging them from taking up an online course.

Other perceived disadvantages include ineffective teaching methodologies (32 percent) while 29 percent of the respondents think taking an online course can be expensive.

In the survey, 32 percent refuse to try online learning programs altogether while only eight percent have already finished an online course.

Survey results further revealed that there were factors that can influence their decision to take up an online course. The fact that online learning courses are time saving (65 percent) may highly influence respondents to take up the course.

Factors

Next, the credibility of the institutions (62 percent) that espouse CMIs is also greatly considered. Students who are interested in programs that are not domestically available may resort to taking it up either offshore or online (50 percent).

Other factors include: ease of use (47 percent), required for promotion at work (44 percent), costs (35 percent) and tuition reimbursements (35 percent).

The potential alternative

Students today may be ready for classes that are computer mediated—classes involving the use of Internet, the Web, electronic mail and audiovisual conferences. Many respondents put high-tech learning aids as one of the advantages of online learning. On the other hand, fear of technology did not seem to be a deterring factor for many respondents to try an online course. The mean age of the respondents may account for such results as most of them are young and tech-savvy.

It is too early to predict whether or not CMIs could topple today's long-standing instructional practices 10, 20 or 50 years from now. However, there is a growing body of evidence that CMIs in the country have proven to be very useful among members of the working community who wish to study fulltime without having to give up their employment.

(*Mr. Mitchie M. Arcaina is a graduate student in Industrial-Organizational Psychology at the Ateneo De Manila University and a telecommunications employee. For more inquiries about this study, please contact* ateneocord@admu.edu.ph)

Meetings are opportunities to build powerful bonds

WORKING MOM

An Mercado Alcantara

I WAS STUNNED by the power of connection when, watching my three-year-old son take his first unassisted swim, I felt his hand touch my arm, saw his face break the surface of the water after going under briefly and paddling furiously, and heard him laugh in sheer delight. He pulled himself into my arms, hugged me, and giggled as if he had just figured out a great cosmic riddle. "I did it! I did it!" he shouted. I was thrilled not so much because of what he achieved, but because of the overwhelming sense of connection I felt with him just by being there to catch him. In that instant, I picked up a valuable lesson about the force that is unleashed when we risk reaching out to others and making genuine contact.

Because we live our lives straddling between the two or three worlds our jobs and our families represent, we don't have many opportunities to take risks on other people and we squander many opportunities to build powerful bonds. As working moms, we have to think carefully about how we reconnect with the people who are in our separate worlds. So very often we plunge from one world to another, without as much as a pause. We take the baggage from one to the other world, without stopping to think what new discovery we can make as we re-enter the workplace or what new insight we can draw as we get back to our families. We rush in and out, jump to and fro, because we want to make the most of our time. Yet, although we are able to shave off a few minutes, we lose out on the chance to make enriching connections with people that would have made our time really worth it.

Take our business meetings for instance, so much of it has degenerated into finger-pointing sessions rather than making the connection between what could have been accomplished and what could still be accomplished, So much time is wasted on blame or gossip rather than on connecting on a personal level with the people we are dealing with. Even when we deal with our children and our spouse, so much time is spent on operational concerns (homework, schedules, money concerns) and not enough time on simply reaching out to bond over a moment of joy they may have experienced or a problem that they may be grappling with.

Dr. Alran Bengzon, chief executive of The Medical City, shared with me a memo written by Margaret Bengzon, executive for strategic development at TMC, on the purpose of meetings. Like all things powerful, the memo was deceptively simple, it stated what are reasonable expectations in any and all meetings conducted in the hospital. But the message it delivered went beyond the guidelines, by issuing the memo, management was saying every encounter is important, every encounter is an opportunity to learn, every encounter is an opportunity to be fortified by genuine bonds.

As I recall, the memo offered four opportunities made available at meetings—the opportunity to clarify issues, the opportunity to report progress, the opportunity for fellowship, and the opportunity to build company culture. These are excellent guidelines for working moms as well. If you want to make full use of the time you spend at meetings, be ready to pursue all these opportunities. Go beyond work, reach out, and get ready to be touched and inspired. Follow the same criteria at the dinner table with your family or when you are driving to school together. Other than talking about school reports and house rules, give each other the opportunity to talk about something each one is going through, also take the chance to talk about what makes your family unique and special.

And if you need a powerful way to reconnect with your toddler, I strongly recommend the Lozada Swimming School's program called "Mommy and Me." The program not only teaches your child how to swim, it also brings mother and child together in such a powerful, moving way.

(An Mercado-Alcantara is founding editor of Working Mom magazine published by ABS-CBN. Your own working mom stories are welcome at an_alcantara@abs.pinoycentral.com.)

Working in family-owned business

PEOPLE at Work and the Ateneo Center for Organization Research and Development (CORD) partner to listen to the heartbeats of working people through this People at Work Pulse. The results of this pulse will be published the following month.

PEOPLE AT WORK *Pulse*

To quicken your response rates, Philippine Daily Inquirer and Ateneo CORD will be giving gift packages to two respondents to be drawn from those who replied for the month.

Winners from last month's survey are: **Agnes Bonifacio** and **Joey Homeres** (please contact Philippine Daily Inquirer at 897- 8808 local 554 to claim your prizes).

1. Have you experienced working in a family-owned business/organization?
   a. Yes, I have worked in a family business in the past.
   b. Yes, I am currently working in a family business.
   c. No, I have never experienced working in a family business.

2. What is your relationship to the owners/founders of the family business?
   a. Immediate family member (or related by blood or marriage)
   b. In-law or extended family member
   c. Close friend/compadre
   d. Non-family employee
   e. Others: ____________

3. What are the possible benefits of "non-family" employees working in a family-owned business? Check as many as you can.
   a. Family culture and being treated as part of the family.
   b. Interaction with the owner or founder.
   c. Business direction/ owner's vision.
   d. Exposure to wider range of decision-making opportunities.
   e. Value loyalty among employees.
   f. Others: ____________

4. What problems do "non-family" employees encounter in a family-owned business? Check as many as you can.
   a. Conflict within family spill over to the business.
   b. Lack of career path/development for non-family employees.
   c. Favoritism/preference of family members.
   d. Lack formal policies (i.e. hiring, compensation).
   e. Perceived mistrust of non-family employees.
   f. Others: ____________

5. What type of organization/company would you prefer to work in? Select one.
   a. Family-owned business
   b. Non-family-owned business
   c. it does not matter what type of organization

Name: ____________
Gender: ____________ Age: ________
Civil Status: ____________
Position: ____________
Nature of the Job : ____________
Company Name: ____________
Industry Type: ____________
No. of years in company: ____________

Mail your answers to People at Work Pulse, Ateneo Center for Organization Research and Development, 2nd floor Hoffner Building, Social Development Complex, Ateneo de Manila University, Loyola Heights, Quezon City. Or fax to (632) 426-6065, e-mail ateneocord@admu.edu.ph or text to (0920) 831-9522. Write: topic 1. (answer), 2. (answer), etc. name, gender, status, position, address, contact numbers or e-mail address.

Philippine Overseas Telecommunications Corporation
POTC

Philippine Communications Satellite Corporation
PHILCOMSAT

TO ALL CONCERNED

The Supreme Court Third Division, in a decision promulgated on June 15, 2005 in G.R. No. 141796 and G.R. No. 141804, upheld the validity of the earlier Sandiganbayan resolutions approving and declaring as immediately executory, the compromise agreement between the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) and Potenciano Ilusorio concerning 5,400 shares of stock in Philippine Overseas Telecommunications Corporation (POTC).

The compromise agreement gave the government 4,727 shares or 35% ownership of POTC and therefore, 35% ownership also of Philcomsat. It further declared that Independent Realty Corp. (IRC) and Mid-Pasig Land Development Corp. (MPLDC) do not have interests in POTC/Philcomsat and that they cannot vote the government-owned shares in the meetings.

The Supreme Court's decision also affects the Philippine Communications Satellite Corporation (Philcomsat), which is 100% owned by POTC, and Philcomsat Holdings Corporation (PHC), which is 81% owned by Philcomsat.

In effect, the Supreme Court decision upheld the validity of our stockholders' meetings in POTC/Philcomsat wherein the government (not IRC nor MPLDC) voted its 35% shares in both companies.

On the other hand, a pretender group had purportedly conducted meetings of POTC and Philcomsat, during which it recognized the participation of MPLDC and IRC and allowed these companies to vote 40% shares in POTC and Philcomsat. This pretender group also submitted its own proxy to the PHC meeting/election on August 31, 2004.

Based on the Supreme Court decision, the meetings conducted by this pretender group, including their purported election to the POTC and Philcomsat boards, are invalid. It also questions the proxy of this pretender group whose proxy was used to "elect" the "present PHC directors."

We enjoin everyone concerned to conduct business ONLY with the POTC, Philcomsat and PHC whose meetings/elections were done in accordance with the SC ruling, represented by the persons named and signing below. Any transaction conducted with the pretender group is subject to nullification by POTC, Philcomsat and PHC.

We especially and strongly advise against entering into any transactions with the pretender group involving cash, securities and other assets of POTC, Philcomsat and PHC.

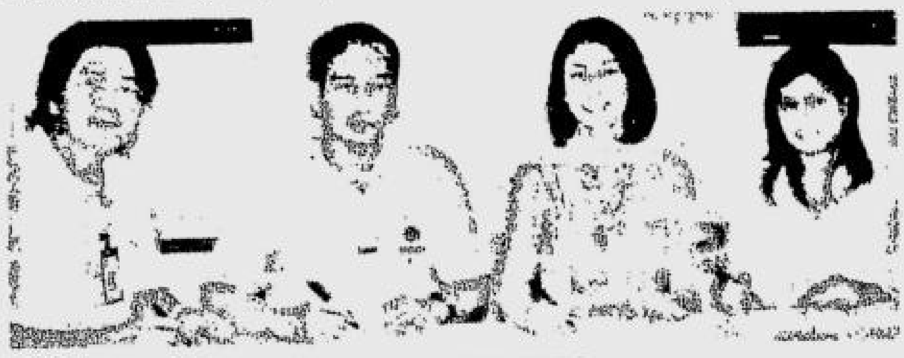
ERLINDA I. BILDNER
Chairman
POTC & Philcomsat

VICTOR V. AFRICA
President & CEO
POTC & Philcomsat

SOUTH FORBES
SOUTH FORBES GOLF CITY

IMG IS SOUTH FORBES GOLF DESIGNER

Leading developer Cathay Land Inc has tapped the services of world-class golf course designer International Management Group (IMG) to design an 18-hole course at South Forbes Golf City in,the Sta. Rosa-Tagaytay business and residential hub. Shown, from left, are Cathay Land corporate secretary lawyer Ronald L. Uy, Cathay Land president Jeffrey T. Ng, IMG vice president Greg Sproule, and IMG project manager Steve Sheperdson who signed this golf design contract recently. South Forbes Golf City offers free golf membership to residential, commercial and condominium unit owners. To join this golfing community, call 635-8108 and 636-4647, or log on to www.cathaylandinc.com.



PCCI PARTICIPATES IN DIGITAL PHOTO EXPO

The Philippine Center for Creative Imaging (PCCI) participates in the upcoming Digital Photography: Technology & Trends expo from July 1 to 3 at the SM Megatrade Hall 3. The expo, which showcases the latest trends in digital photography and its applications, is open to the public and expects to draw a crowd of professional photographers and enthusiasts. Shown at the MOA signing are (from left) renowned portraitist Ibarra Deri, PCCI president Jun Miranda, Holl Advertising & Promotions Inc president Michelle Lim, and Rachelle Sumugoy. The expo is co-presented by Gadgets Magazine and Yehey.com. For more information, call Holl, event organizer, at 687-2434 or 35, or e-mail info@holl-ads.com.

An important option in coronary heart disease

DESPITE advances in the treatment of heart ailments, questions still bother experts on the outcome of various treatment interventions.

"Why is the annual death among post-bypass cases with high blood pressure, diabetes, obesity and high cholesterol levels higher compared to those patients without these risk factors? Why is the frequency of significant occlusive coronary artery disease almost only 50 percent among patients with typical chest discomfort or angina, and/or positive treadmill exercise test?" Dr. Ramon Abarquez, professor emeritus at the University of the Philippines College of Medicine, asked in a recent gathering of heart specialists at Amanpulo in Palawan.

Road network

According to Abarquez, blood is distributed to cells and tissues via a microcirculation that accounts for 90 percent of heart muscle blood flow. He compares the heart circulation network of blood vessels to a road network consisting of national highways leading to provincial roads to single lane barrio passages terminating in driveways to each house. The damaged asphalt road simulates the innermost layer of the blood vessels (endothelium).

Segmental narrowing of blood vessels supplying the heart muscle has been perceived to be the cause of heart attacks or angina, says Abarquez. To bypass the blocked segment, an overpass is created (heart bypass graft surgery) or tunnels are established (balloon angioplasty with stent). However, in most cases, despite these interventions, heart attack cannot be prevented since blood clots can completely block even minimally narrowed blood vessels due to endothelial damage.

"Imagine potholes and humps causing traffic jams. Mere restoration of blood flow at the larger blood vessels may still leave smaller ones blocked," explains Abarquez.

This microvascular circulation abnormalities affect cell nourishment. With endothelial damage smallest blood vessels (capillaries) deprived of adequate blood flow depend on fatty acids (derived from fats) for food. "However, conversion of fatty acids to energy for the cells require more oxygen than energy derived from glucose. Thus, despite surgical or invasive interventional procedures, unless cell uptake of glucose accompanies blood flow restoration, a functional heart muscle may not be achieved," says Abarquez.

Energy from glucose

In a situation where oxygen supply is already compromised by the diminished blood supply, an agent that facilitates cells to derive energy from glucose more than from fatty acids thereby needing less oxygen, provide improved quality of life, improved cell survival after a heart attack, increased glucose uptake of cells is currently available in a twice daily dose of trimetazidine (TMZ). Given before and after revascularization procedures, TMZ on positron emission tomography scan (PET) to indicate cell glucose uptake and dobutamine stress echo also demonstrates improved heart muscle function.

Cell survival with TMZ

Abarquez cited his local study that was subsequently confirmed by a multi-center larger patient study in Europe, which showed improved cell survival with reduced mortality after a heart attack following administration of TMZ.

Many heart experts agree that a paradigm shift in CAD management is the use of TMZ to relieve angina, improve survival after a heart attack among those ineligible for thrombolysis (clot dissolving treatment), improved heart muscle function after surgical intervention. More importantly, TMZ has no side effects, does not produce new onset diabetes unlike beta-blockers, nor produce tolerance unlike nitrates that can lead to adverse events. Anginal relief is likewise similar to other anti-anginal agents.

CONVERGYS OPENS 1ST RECRUITMENT CENTER IN MANILA

To better reach graduates and students to build careers in the contact center industry, Convergys Corp has opened a recruitment center in the heart of Manila's university belt. The first of its kind in the country, the Convergys recruitment center is located in St. Thomas Square in Espana Boulevard corner Padre Campa Street, Sampaloc, Manila. During the inauguration, guest of honor Sen. Mar Roxas commended Convergys for helping build the Filipino workforce within the country. The world leader in outsourced contact center operations, Convergys currently employs over 5,300 Filipinos.

The Swan's delectable wedding feast made affordable

IN CELEBRATION of the wedding month, The Swan catering rings the bell as it brings to the fore the June Wedding Feast. Dedicated to couples bound to wed this "marry" month of June, The Swan vows to provide an idyllic wedding banquet while consequently giving marrying couples the ease of overspending on their wedding banquet.

The June Wedding Feast will showcase The Swan's smorgasbord, which features full international cuisines boasting from Spanish, Italian and Filipino dishes at a special price of only P250 and is guaranteed to leave guests with a satisfied palate. On top of this delectable feast, the Swan also renders assistance on assembling wedding details, including placing wedding cake orders, bridal gown and flower arrangement as well as photography and limousine rentals; making them the essential partner to pair with on planning and getting close to realizing a dream wedding.

The Swan offers stylish, friendly, and professional catering services of the highest standard at an affordable price and only with the best value for money. It has vast and in-depth experience in catering for weddings and other milestone events in its four decades of highly specialized services.

The limited time offer extends to baptisms, birthdays, anniversaries and other functions and runs from June till September. For inquiries, call 413-0824 to 25/415-7926/528-0286, or e-mail sales@swancatering.com.ph or visit The Swan's quaint dining restaurant situated at the Palacio Grande aback the famed Manila Cathedral in Intramuros, Manila.

Tupperware taps college students in direct selling

TUPPERWARE Philippines, one of the country's leading direct selling companies which has provided livelihood to thousands of Filipinos for the past 38 years, taps college students as its new breed of direct sellers with its Young Go Flex! Council or YGFC.

Through the YGFC, Tupperware hopes to develop the entrepreneurial talents of young Filipinos 18 to 29 years old, mostly college students and fresh graduates, in earning extra income and starting a business of their own. At the same time, YGFC provides opportunities to meet and socialize with people, enjoy flexible work schedules, and receive professional training and support from one of the world's leading direct-sellers.

"We envision YGFC to be an elite and exclusive circle of young ambassadors who will make a difference in the direct selling industry and achieve remarkable financial independence with a revolutionary product like Go Flex! And all of these they can do while meeting their many friends and having their many parties, which they do most of the time anyway. But now they're going to earn from those social activities and become productive members of our society," says Tupperware Philippines national sales director Yvette A. Navarro.

College students will find that with YGFC, they can work on a part-time basis as a productive way of spending their free time-earning money for their own gimmicks rather than asking from their parents. While fresh graduates will discover that, as part of the young Tupperware sales force, they will gain prestigious work experience working with a multinational company while still in the process of applying for a job.

Tupperware recently launched Go Flex!, considered the world's first expandable storage solution and is projected to be in 9 out of 10 Filipino homes in the next five years. Its high-tech features and youthful design will appeal to young Filipinos' taste.

YGFC members are expected to conduct training classes for new recruits, help motivate and assist in recruitment activities, and promote Go Flex! and the Flexer earning opportunity. Incentives include above-the-minimum wages, free Tupperware products, and the perks that come with joining the Tupperware sales force such as free local and foreign trips, cash rewards, appliances and gift items.

Since 1966, Tupperware sales consultants from all ages and backgrounds have succeeded at direct selling based on the company's experience. At Tupperware, there are no required levels of education, experience, financial resources or physical condition.

Tupperware is one of the world's leading direct-sellers, supplying premium home organization products to consumers in more than 100 countries in partnership with 1 million sales consultants worldwide, half of which are in Asia, of which 18,000 are in the country.

For more information on Tupperware products and careers, see your nearest distributor, text 0917-813-TUPP (0917-8138877) or call 845-4798. For comments, e-mail philmktg@tupperware.com, log on to www.tupperwarephil.com or write to Tupperware Philippines, PO Box 1331, Makati Central Post Office 1253, Makati City.

UPMG holds special screening of "War of the Worlds"

Tom Cruise and Dakota Fanning in the movie event of the year "War of the Worlds"

The United Print Media Group (UPMG) is sponsoring the special screening of the motion picture "War of the Worlds" on July 1 at Greenbelt 3, Cinema 2, Ayala Center 7:30pm. The movie event of the year, directed by Steven Spielberg, stars international superstar Tom Cruise.

A contemporary retelling of H.G. Well's seminal classic, the sci-fi adventure thriller reveals the extraordinary battle for the future of humankind through the eyes of one American family fighting to survive it. The film also stars Dakota Fanning, Miranda Otto, Justin Chatwin and Tim Robbins.

The premiere showing of "War of the Worlds" is a fund-raising activity of the UPMG to support their year-round activities and also to share the proceeds to their chosen beneficiary- Asilo de San Vicente de Paul Orphanage.

The fund raising activity is presented by PLDT & Smart. Isuzu is the major sponsor. Other sponsors are Alaska, Revicon I-ON, and McDonalds. RPN 9, JoeyFM, and Mellow Touch 94.7 serve as the event's media partners.

Bits & Clips

Skin pampering treats

FOR THE whole month of June, Total Skinn Complete Body Care gives a 50-percent discount on facial along with a free back massage or waxing for those who would avail themselves of the Lightening and Moisturizing Body Scrub. Also, get a free Paraffin Wax Treatment for every hand or foot therapy and a free facial for every laser treatment. What's more, clients who drop in between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Tuesdays to Fridays also get a free hand and foot therapy. Total Skinn Complete Body Care is at the 8th floor, Pearlbank Centre, 146 Valero Street, Salcedo Village, Makati City. Call 894-5877 or 79 or 894-0572. It is open from Tuesdays to Sundays.

Eyewear deals with Citibank

SHIELD your eyes from the sun's glare and say hello to great savings when you use your Citibank credit card at Executive Optical. Enjoy between 30 to 35 percent off on all purchases of Dunlop, Adidas and Speedo frames and sunglasses by paying for the bill using your Citibank credit card. The offer is valid until June 30. To know more exciting offers from Citibank, call the 24-hour CitiPhone at 995-9999 or log on to www.citibank.com.ph.

Responsible franchising: A to Z

FRANCHISING, which is now considered a "sunshine industry," has sparked excitement and interest from various sectors. But with the rush to jump on the franchising bandwagon, it has become imperative for proponents of the sector to reiterate the importance of responsible franchising. The Association of Filipino Franchisors Inc (Affi) is organizing a one-day seminar to be held during the Franchise Fiesta: The 4th Filipino Franchise Show from July 1 to 3 at the SM Megatrade Hall, Level 5, Building B of SM Megamall. The seminar will be held on the last day of the Franchise Fiesta. At the end of the seminar participants should be armed with the basic parameters of responsible franchising that they could use as they decide to invest in a franchise or franchise their business. For registration details, call 532-8386 and look for Josel Moderacion; or 531-7282 and look for Arnel Alberca or Rizza Perfiñan.

ProductFILES

Gillette MACH3Turbo in RP

THE WORLD'S best performing shaving system ever-the Gillette MACH3Turbo-is now available in the Philippines. Gillette's next generation triple blade shaving system features several innovations, including Anti-Friction blade edges, an ultra-soft, protective skinguard, a patented lubricating system and an improved razor handle with an ergonomically enhanced grip to deliver the closest and most comfortable shave with less irritation, even when shaving against the grain.

MACH3Turbo is available in leading supermarkets and other retail establishments at an introductory price of P299 until June 30.

Freestyle live at Metro July 7

AFTER its stint in the United States late last year, Freestyle is back with "Mananatili", a cut from its album "Once in a Lifetime", which was released last year. The group behind the hits "Before I Let You Go", "So Slow", "Til I Found You", the phenomenal "Bakit Ngayon Ka Lang" and other hits will be having a concert, "Freestyle...Live @ Metro", set this July 7 at the Metro Comedy Bar at 47 West Avenue, Quezon City. Freestyle will be joined by Anton Diva, Pooh and other topnotch comedians, including new artist Red, a veteran lounge singer, with the VIP dancers. "Freestyle...Live @ Metro" is presented by Livewire Entertainment and Photofabric for the benefit of Global Saver Humanitarian Foundations (Sagip Bata, Buhay at Kalikasan). Tickets are available at Metro Comedy Bar, Punchline, Laffline, Ticketnet and all SM outlets, or call 911-5555. For bookings and inquiries, call 928-1604 or 431-3808, or 0921-2792300/0915-7585139 and look for Mhayen.

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Inquirer Round:

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INQUIRER Sunday

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Making Headlines

Inquirer turns 20

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Survey says PDI is No.1 nationwide

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100 episodes, and counting

Inquirer its most-awarded RP broadsheet

PDI launches corporate website

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

20th Anniversary Launch

Sunday, July 3, 2005

Glorietta Activity Center

Glorietta Mall, Makati City

Inquirer front page gallery . Career consulation & mini job fair . Fashion makeovers . VTR screen test . Face painting & kiddie activities
Mini-golf & basketball games . Street magic & fortune telling

With special appearances by your favorite Inquirer personalities. Plus other surprises.

With live performances by Nyoy Volante & Mannos, The Company, Parokya ni Edgar, True Faith,
Stringskin, Keystone, Out of the Box, Thor, Ms. Ai-ai delas Alas and Ms. Regine Velasquez.

Bring a copy of Inquirer's first issue and win big prizes!

Celebrate this milestone with us and get the chance to appear on our front page.

Registration starts at 11:30 a.m., and the first 500 to register win Inquirer gift items. ADMISSION IS FREE! You may pre-register at www.inquirer.com.ph.

Cut this coupon and bring it to the event for even more surprises!

Name: ______________________ Age ______
Address ______________________ Gender ______
Tel. No. ______________________
E-mail Address ______________________

GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM
Republic of the Philippines

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

The GSIS, through its Acquired Assets Evaluation Committee (AAEC), is inviting interested buyers of residential units or house and lots in different housing projects through a public auction that will be conducted on the date and time (as indicated) at the venue specified.

Francisco Homes II - Caretas
San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan
Bidding Date & Time **July 21, 2005 at 2:00 p.m.**
Venue: **HRDD Lobby , 3rd Level**
GSIS Headquarters, Financial Center
Pasay City

Code No		Block No	Lot No	Lot Area (sqm)	Floor Area (sqm)	Minimum Offer Price (Php)
FH2-	001	1	13&14	192	29	820,081.25
FH2-	002	2	5	213	29	883,709.17
FH2-	003	2	9	109	29	893,941.67
FH2-	004	2	11	167	29	732,581.25
FH2-	005	2	15	143	29	648,581.25
FH2-	006	2	16	104	29	512,081.25
FH2-	007	2	17	111	29	836,581.25
FH2-	008	2	19	103	29	516,478.92
FH2-	009	3	1	120	29	588,081.25
FH2-	010	3	4	129	29	599,581.25
FH2-	011	3	5	170	29	733,209.17
FH2-	012	3	6	161	36	829,580.00
FH2-	013	3	10	180	36	813,825.00
FH2-	014	3	12	180	29	778,081.25
FH2-	015	3	15	96	29	464,081.25
FH2-	016	4	1	140	29	638,081.25
FH2-	017	4	3	120	29	568,081.25
FH2-	018	4	14	120	29	597,697.50
FH2-	019	4	16	120	29	568,081.25
FH2-	020	4	17	120	29	558,209.17
FH2-	021	6	5	100	29	498,081.25
FH2-	022	6	6	100	29	488,209.17
FH2-	023	6	8	106	29	519,081.25
FH2-	024	6	10	117	29	557,581.25
FH2-	025	6	14	137	29	627,581.25
FH2-	026	6	19	100	29	488,209.17
FH2-	027	6	23	100	29	492,158.00
FH2-	028	6	26	100	36	533,825.00
FH2-	029	6	28	100	29	586,930.00
FH2-	030	6	31	101	29	501,581.25
FH2-	031	6	48	129	29	599,581.25
FH2-	032	6	30&32	201	29	851,581.25
FH2-	033	6	45&47	200	29	848,081.25
FH2-	034	7	10	100	29	498,081.25
FH2-	035	7	25	80	29	432,030.08
FH2-	036	7	27	80	29	481,390.50
FH2-	037	7	29	80	29	428,081.25
FH2-	038	7	32	100	29	498,081.25
FH2-	039	8	4	107	29	518,632.42
FH2-	040	8	14	137	29	627,581.25
FH2-	041	9	3	135	29	622,655.67
FH2-	042	9	5	160	29	673,081.25
FH2-	043	9	7	150	29	668,183.58
FH2-	044	9	11	160	29	673,081.25
FH2-	045	9	12	150	29	669,132.42
FH2-	046	10	1	155	29	690,581.25
FH2-	047	10	4	240	36	1,014,021.00
FH2-	048	10	12	120	29	566,106.83
FH2-	049	10	14	120	29	579,927.75
FH2-	050	11	2	108	29	524,106.83
FH2-	051	11	7	150	29	673,081.25
FH2-	052	11	8	96	29	484,081.25
FH2-	053	12	2	120	29	562,158.00
FH2-	054	12	10	120	29	563,878.58
FH2-	055	12	11	120	29	568,081.25
FH2-	056	12	14	120	29	564,132.42
FH2-	057	12	16	120	29	566,106.83
FH2-	058	12	17	100	29	496,106.83
FH2-	059	12	19	120	29	566,106.83
FH2-	060	12	21	120	36	603,825.00
FH2-	061	12	24	120	29	568,081.25
FH2-	062	12	26	120	29	566,106.83
FH2-	063	12	38	120	29	544,388.25
FH2-	064	12	7&9	270	29	1,087,158.00
FH2-	065	13	14	100	29	531,646.33
FH2-	066	13	16	100	29	521,774.25
FH2-	067	13	19	100	29	498,081.25
FH2-	068	13	30	100	29	498,081.25
FH2-	069	13	32	100	29	490,183.58
FH2-	070	13	36	100	36	533,825.00
FH2-	071	14	4	125	29	585,581.25
FH2-	072	14	23	100	29	498,081.25
FH2-	073	14	24	100	29	498,081.25
FH2-	074	14	25	100	29	498,081.25
FH2-	075	14	43	100	29	498,081.25
FH2-	076	14	49	86	29	476,183.58
FH2-	077	15	6	80	29	428,081.25
FH2-	078	15	14	80	29	428,081.25
FH2-	079	15	15	80	29	428,081.25
FH2-	080	15	20	80	29	428,081.25
FH2-	081	15	31	80	29	428,081.25
FH2-	082	15	37	80	29	428,081.25
FH2-	083	15	39	80	29	428,081.25
FH2-	084	15	41	100	29	498,081.25
FH2-	085	16	4	100	36	536,278.00
FH2-	086	16	5	100	29	496,081.25
FH2-	087	16	6	100	29	498,081.25
FH2-	088	16	7	100	29	498,081.25
FH2-	089	16	9	80	29	428,081.25
FH2-	090	16	10	80	29	428,081.25
FH2-	091	16	13	80	29	428,081.25
FH2-	092	16	14	80	29	428,081.25
FH2-	093	16	15&17	160	29	706,106.83
FH2-	094	16	22&24	160	36	743,825.00
FH2-	095	16	25	80	29	428,081.25
FH2-	096	16	30	80	29	428,081.25
FH2-	097	16	35	80	29	428,081.25
FH2-	098	16	42	80	29	432,030.08
FH2-	099	16	48	116	29	554,081.25
FH2-	100	17	2	116	29	552,106.83
FH2-	101	17	3	100	29	498,081.25
FH2-	102	17	5	100	29	504,004.50
FH2-	103	17	7	100	29	498,081.25
FH2-	104	17	9	80	29	420,183.58
FH2-	105	17	11	80	29	420,183.58
FH2-	106	17	15	80	29	428,081.25
FH2-	107	17	19	80	29	420,183.58
FH2-	108	17	23	80	29	420,183.58
FH2-	109	17	41	80	29	420,183.58
FH2-	110	17	45	100	29	494,132.42
FH2-	111	18	1	116	29	554,081.25
FH2-	112	18	2	116	29	552,106.83
FH2-	113	18	4	80	29	424,132.42
FH2-	114	18	5&7	160	29	704,132.42
FH2-	115	18	8	80	29	426,106.83
FH2-	116	18	19	80	29	426,106.83
FH2-	117	18	21	100	29	496,081.25
FH2-	118	19	4	120	29	566,106.83
FH2-	119	19	8	120	29	572,030.08
FH2-	120	19	11	120	29	572,030.08
FH2-	121	19	14	120	29	562,158.00
FH2-	122	19	16	120	29	566,081.25
FH2-	123	19	19	120	29	628,300.96
FH2-	124	20	4	120	29	568,081.25
FH2-	125	20	7	120	29	572,030.08
FH2-	126	20	8	120	29	568,081.25

Francisco Homes III
San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan
Bidding Date & Time **July 21, 2005 at 2:00 p.m.**
Venue: **HRDD Lobby , 3rd Level**
GSIS Headquarters, Financial Center
Pasay City

Code No		Block No	Lot No	Lot Area (sqm)	Floor Area (sqm)	Minimum Offer Price (Php)
FH3-	001	1	31	100	29	382,700.00
FH3-	002	1	32	100	29	382,700.00
FH3-	003	2	4	100	29	382,700.00
FH3-	004	2	8	100	29	382,700.00
FH3-	005	2	22	100	29	382,700.00
FH3-	006	3	2	116	29	437,900.00
FH3-	007	3	4	100	29	382,700.00
FH3-	008	3	6	100	29	382,700.00
FH3-	009	3	10	100	29	382,700.00
FH3-	010	3	17	100	29	382,700.00
FH3-	011	3	21	100	29	382,700.00
FH3-	012	3	22	100	29	382,700.00
FH3-	013	3	27	100	29	382,700.00
FH3-	014	3	28	100	29	382,700.00
FH3-	015	3	29	116	32	456,800.00
FH3-	016	4	2	116	29	437,900.00
FH3-	017	4	18	100	29	382,700.00
FH3-	018	4	19	100	29	382,700.00
FH3-	019	4	20	100	29	382,700.00
FH3-	020	4	21	100	29	382,700.00
FH3-	021	4	23	100	29	382,700.00

Francisco Homes III (cont)
San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan
Bidding Date & Time **July 21, 2005 at 2:00 p.m.**
Venue: **HRDD Lobby , 3rd Level**
GSIS Headquarters, Financial Center
Pasay City

Code No		Block No	Lot No	Lot Area (sqm)	Floor Area (sqm)	Minimum Offer Price (Php)
FH3-	049	9	13	100	29	382,700.00
FH3-	050	9	14	100	29	382,700.00
FH3-	051	9	16	100	29	382,700.00
FH3-	052	9	17	100	29	382,700.00
FH3-	053	9	18	100	29	382,700.00
FH3-	054	10	5	100	29	382,700.00
FH3-	055	10	21	100	29	382,700.00
FH3-	056	11	3	100	29	382,700.00
FH3-	057	11	7	100	29	382,700.00
FH3-	058	11	10	100	29	382,700.00
FH3-	059	11	16	100	29	382,700.00
FH3-	060	11	23	100	29	382,700.00
FH3-	061	11	25	100	29	382,700.00
FH3-	062	12	8	100	29	382,700.00
FH3-	063	12	10	100	29	382,700.00
FH3-	064	12	11	128	29	440,700.00
FH3-	065	12	13	131	29	444,700.00
FH3-	066	12	15	87	29	356,700.00
FH3-	067	12	17	88	29	358,700.00
FH3-	068	12	29	98	29	378,700.00
FH3-	069	13	1	122	29	451,100.00
FH3-	070	15	4	87	29	356,700.00
FH3-	071	15	8	90	29	362,700.00
FH3-	072	15	9	90	29	362,700.00
FH3-	073	15	16	99	29	380,700.00
FH3-	074	15	17	99	29	380,700.00
FH3-	075	15	18	135	29	452,700.00
FH3-	076	15	19	135	29	452,700.00
FH3-	077	16	5	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	078	16	6	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	079	16	11	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	080	16	13	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	081	16	15	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	082	16	20	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	083	16	22	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	084	16	30	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	085	17	4	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	086	17	11	108	29	398,700.00
FH3-	087	17	12	108	29	398,700.00
FH3-	088	17	16	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	089	17	21	96	29	383,900.00
FH3-	090	18	7	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	091	18	8	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	092	18	9	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	093	18	11	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	094	18	14	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	095	18	18	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	096	18	20	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	097	18	23	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	098	18	24	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	099	18	27	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	100	18	28	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	101	18	29	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	102	18	31	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	103	18	34	118	29	442,300.00
FH3-	104	19	4	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	105	19	5	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	106	19	6	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	107	19	9	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	108	19	10	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	109	19	11	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	110	19	12	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	111	19	17	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	112	19	21	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	113	19	22	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	114	19	23	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	115	19	24	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	116	19	27	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	117	19	28	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	118	19	35	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	119	20	8	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	120	20	12	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	121	20	15	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	122	20	16	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	123	20	23	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	124	20	24	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	125	20	25	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	126	20	26	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	127	20	28	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	128	20	30	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	129	20	31	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	130	21	1	88	29	371,900.00
FH3-	131	21	2	90	29	380,700.00
FH3-	132	21	3	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	133	21	4	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	134	21	9	113	29	408,700.00
FH3-	135	21	13	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	136	21	18	186	29	547,900.00
FH3-	137	22	2	91	29	382,900.00
FH3-	138	22	4	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	139	22	7	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	140	22	11	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	141	22	13	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	142	22	16	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	143	22	17	91	29	382,900.00
FH3-	144	23	3	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	145	23	5	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	146	23	6	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	147	23	7	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	148	23	10	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	149	23	11	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	150	23	13	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	151	23	15	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	152	24	3	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	153	24	5	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	154	24	6	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	155	24	7	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	156	24	9	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	157	24	12	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	158	24	15	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	159	25	9	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	160	25	11	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	161	25	12	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	162	25	13	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	163	25	15	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	164	26	1	91	29	382,900.00
FH3-	165	26	3	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	166	26	8	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	167	26	12	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	168	26	13	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	169	26	15	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	170	26	16	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	171	26	17	91	29	382,900.00
FH3-	172	27	3	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	173	27	7	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	174	27	8	104	29	390,700.00
FH3-	175	27	17	91	29	382,900.00
FH3-	176	27	18	120	29	446,700.00
FH3-	177	28	1	91	29	382,900.00
FH3-	178	28	5	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	179	28	10	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	180	28	11	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	181	28	13	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	182	28	14	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	183	28	15	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	184	29	6	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	185	29	7	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	186	29	8	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	187	29	12	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	188	29	16	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	189	29	18	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	190	29	21	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	191	29	23	116	29	437,900.00
FH3-	192	30	3	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	193	30	8	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	194	30	9	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	195	30	12	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	196	30	14	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	197	30	17	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	198	30	20	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	199	31	3	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	200	31	4	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	201	31	7	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	202	31	9	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	203	31	11	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	204	31	13	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	205	32	3	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	206	32	13	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	207	32	15	80	36	369,400.00
FH3-	208	32	17	103	29	409,300.00

Francisco Homes III (cont)
San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan
Bidding Date & Time **July 21, 2005 at 2:00 p.m.**
Venue: **HRDD Lobby , 3rd Level**
GSIS Headquarters, Financial Center
Pasay City

Code No		Block No	Lot No	Lot Area (sqm)	Floor Area (sqm)	Minimum Offer Price (Php)
FH3-	236	38	5	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	237	38	11	84	29	367,500.00
FH3-	238	38	3	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	239	39	4	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	240	39	6	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	241	40	1	83	29	365,300.00
FH3-	242	40	5	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	243	40	8	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	244	41	6	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	245	41	7	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	246	41	8	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	247	41	10	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	248	41	11	84	29	367,500.00
FH3-	249	42	3	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	250	42	6	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	251	42	8	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	252	42	9	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	253	43	3	118	29	416,700.00
FH3-	254	43	5	167	29	550,100.00
FH3-	255	44	3	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	256	44	4	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	257	44	6	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	258	44	10	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	259	45	1	98	29	393,900.00
FH3-	260	45	4	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	261	45	5	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	262	45	6	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	263	45	14	126	29	459,000.00
FH3-	264	46	2	98	29	393,900.00
FH3-	265	46	4	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	266	46	15	94	29	389,500.00
FH3-	267	46	16	127	29	462,100.00
FH3-	268	47	3	88	29	358,700.00
FH3-	269	47	4	88	29	358,700.00
FH3-	270	47	9	88	29	358,700.00
FH3-	271	47	13	164	29	510,700.00
FH3-	272	47	14	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	273	49	6	100	29	382,700.00

Lapidsville II Subdivision
Tambubong, San Rafael, Bulacan
Bidding Date & Time **July 21, 2005 at 2:00 p.m.**
Venue: **HRDD Lobby , 3rd Level**
GSIS Headquarters, Financial Center
Pasay City

Code No		Block No	Lot No	Lot Area (sqm)	Floor Area (sqm)	Minimum Offer Price (Php)
LPV2-	001	2	21	120	32	536,320.00
LPV2-	002	2	28	120	32	360,000.00
LPV2-	003	3	4	80	32	404,565.33
LPV2-	004	3	5	80	32	404,565.33
LPV2-	005	3	23	80	35	419,993.33
LPV2-	006	4	27	50	27.5	311,626.67
LPV2-	007	4	31	154	32	650,074.67
LPV2-	008	4	35	50	27.5	335,870.67
LPV2-	009	4	38	208	32	776,810.67
LPV2-	010	5	6	98	35	473,993.33
LPV2-	011	5	7	100	32	492,776.53
LPV2-	012	5	14	50	27.5	291,423.33
LPV2-	013	5	18	80	35	432,850.00
LPV2-	014	5	20	80	35	432,850.00
LPV2-	015	5	21	80	35	432,850.00
LPV2-	016	7	2	100	32	464,565.33
LPV2-	017	7	3	50	27.5	291,423.33
LPV2-	018	7	9	80	35	453,420.67
LPV2-	019	7	18	80	35	419,993.33
LPV2-	020	7	20	80	35	471,420.00
LPV2-	021	7	21	80	35	419,993.33
LPV2-	022	7	22	80	35	419,993.33
LPV2-	023	7	25	80	35	432,850.00
LPV2-	024	7	27	80	35	432,850.00
LPV2-	025	8	19	50	27.5	281,321.67
LPV2-	026	8	21	50	27.5	317,687.67
LPV2-	027	9	8	50	27.5	301,525.00
LPV2-	028	9	9	50	25	287,750.00
LPV2-	029	9	10	50	27.5	291,423.33
LPV2-	030	9	11	50	25	278,566.67
LPV2-	031	9	12	50	27.5	291,423.33
LPV2-	032	9	14	50	27.5	301,525.00
LPV2-	033	9	15	50	27.5	327,789.33
LPV2-	034	9	18	50	27.5	301,525.00
LPV2-	035	9	19	50	25	278,566.67
LPV2-	036	9	21	50	25	278,566.67
LPV2-	037	9	32	50	27.5	301,525.00
LPV2-	038	9	33	50	25	278,566.67
LPV2-	039	9	38	50	27.5	291,423.33
LPV2-	040	9	44	50	27.5	291,423.33
LPV2-	041	9	1C	138	32	653,795.20
LPV2-	042	9	3E	100	32	464,565.33
LPV2-	043	10	8	50	27.5	301,525.00
LPV2-	044	10	10	50	27.5	301,525.00
LPV2-	045	10	14	50	27.5	291,423.33
LPV2-	046	10	16	50	27.5	301,525.00
LPV2-	047	10	25	50	27.5	301,525.00
LPV2-	048	10	27	50	27.5	291,423.33
LPV2-	049	10	29	50	27.5	291,423.33
LPV2-	050	10	37	113	35	518,993.33
LPV2-	051	10	2B	106	35	487,993.33
LPV2-	052	11	5	50	27.5	291,423.33
LPV2-	053	11	6	50	27.5	301,525.00
LPV2-	054	11	8	50	27.5	291,423.33
LPV2-	055	11	9	50	27.5	291,423.33
LPV2-	056	11	13	50	27.5	291,423.33
LPV2-	057	11	19	50	27.5	291,423.33
LPV2-	058	11	20	50	27.5	301,525.00
LPV2-	059	11	31	50	27.5	291,423.33
LPV2-	060	11	32	50	25	278,566.67
LPV2-	061	11	33	50	27.5	311,626.67
LPV2-	062	11	34	50	27.5	301,525.00
LPV2-	063	11	35	50	27.5	301,525.00
LPV2-	064	11	39	50	27.5	291,423.33
LPV2-	065	11	40	50	25	278,566.67
LPV2-	066	11	2H	106	35	465,138.67
LPV2-	067	11	3E	100	32	464,565.33
LPV2-	068	12	5	50	27.5	321,728.33
LPV2-	069	12	7	50	27.5	291,423.33
LPV2-	070	12	8	50	27.5	311,626.67
LPV2-	071	12	9	50	27.5	321,728.33
LPV2-	072	12	14	50	27.5	311,626.67
LPV2-	073	12	18	50	27.5	316,687.33
LPV2-	074	12	29	50	27.5	291,423.33
LPV2-	075	12	31	50	27.5	311,626.67
LPV2-	076	12	34	50	27.5	321,728.33
LPV2-	077	12	35	50	27.5	291,423.33
LPV2-	078	12	38	50	27.5	311,626.67
LPV2-	079	12	39	50	27.5	311,626.67
LPV2-	080	12	2H	135	35	587,880.00
LPV2-	081	12	4F	100	35	492,850.00
LPV2-	082	13	7	50	25	278,566.67
LPV2-	083	13	8	50	27.5	291,423.33
LPV2-	084	13	12	50	27.5	327,789.33
LPV2-	085	13	15	50	25	278,566.67
LPV2-	086	13	17	50	25	278,566.67
LPV2-	087	13	20	50	27.5	317,687.67
LPV2-	087	13	20	50	27.5	317,687.67
LPV2-	088	13	21	50	25	278,566.67
LPV2-	089	13	22	50	27.5	291,423.33
LPV2-	090	13	32	50	27.5	291,423.33
LPV2-	091	13	34	50	27.5	291,423.33
LPV2-	092	13	35	50	27.5	291,423.33
LPV2-	093	13	36	50	27.5	301,525.00
LPV2-	094	13	39	50	27.5	291,423.33
LPV2-	095	13	41	50	27.5	291,423.33
LPV2-	096	13	1C	100	35	492,850.00
LPV2-	097	14	5	50	27.5	311,626.67
LPV2-	098	14	8	50	27.5	311,626.67
LPV2-	099	14	9	50	27.5	301,525.00
LPV2-	100	14	11	50	27.5	291,423.33
LPV2-	101	14	17	50	27.5	329,808.67
LPV2-	102	14	29	50	27.5	311,626.67
LPV2-	103	14	31	50	27.5	301,525.00
LPV2-	104	14	33	50	27.5	311,626.67
LPV2-	105	14	36	50	27.5	311,626.67
LPV2-	106	14	37	50	27.5	311,626.67
LPV2-	107	14	39	50	27.5	291,423.33
LPV2-	108	14	40	50	27.5	291,423.33

Lapidsville II Subdivision (cont)
Tambubong, San Rafael, Bulacan
Bidding Date & Time **July 21, 2005 at 2:00 p.m.**
Venue: **HRDD Lobby , 3rd Level**
GSIS Headquarters, Financial Center
Pasay City

Code No		Block No	Lot No	Lot Area (sqm)	Floor Area (sqm)	Minimum Offer Price (Php)
LPV2-	136	17	9	50	27.5	301,525.00
LPV2-	137	17	11	50	27.5	301,525.00
LPV2-	138	17	13	50	27.5	301,525.00
LPV2-	139	17	16	50	27.5	291,423.00
LPV2-	140	17	18	50	27.5	301,525.00
LPV2-	141	17	27	50	27.5	301,525.00
LPV2-	142	17	28	50	27.5	301,525.00
LPV2-	143	17	30	50	27.5	311,626.67
LPV2-	144	17	32	44	27.5	283,525.00
LPV2-	145	17	34	50	27.5	301,525.00
LPV2-	146	17	38	50	27.5	301,525.00
LPV2-	147	17	40	50	27.5	301,525.00
LPV2-	148	17	1A	106	35	497,993.33
LPV2-	149	17	1G	122	32	518,810.67
LPV2-	150	17	2H	104	32	464,810.67
LPV2-	151	17	3E	100	32	452,810.67
LPV2-	152	17	4F	100	32	452,810.67
LPV2-	153	20	5	50	27.5	291,423.00
LPV2-	154	20	6	50	27.5	311,626.67
LPV2-	155	20	8	50	27.5	291,423.33
LPV2-	156	20	9	50	27.5	291,423.33
LPV2-	157	20	10	50	27.5	291,423.33
LPV2-	158	20	12	50	27.5	291,423.33
LPV2-	159	20	13	50	27.5	291,423.33
LPV2-	160	20	14	50	27.5	291,423.33
LPV2-	161	20	15	50	27.5	321,728.33
LPV2-	162	20	17	50	27.5	311,626.67
LPV2-	163	20	19	50	27.5	301,525.00
LPV2-	164	20	22	50	27.5	291,423.00
LPV2-	165	20	28	100	35	479,993.33
LPV2-	166	21	2	60	27.5	321,423.33
LPV2-	167	21	3	60	27.5	321,423.33
LPV2-	168	21	5	60	27.5	321,423.33
LPV2-	169	22	3	50	27.5	291,423.33
LPV2-	170	22	21	50	27.5	291,423.33
LPV2-	171	22	22	50	27.5	317,687.68
LPV2-	172	22	24	50	27.5	291,423.33
LPV2-	173	22	25	50	27.5	291,423.33
LPV2-	174	23	6	50	27.5	291,423.33
LPV2-	175	23	8	50	27.5	291,423.33
LPV2-	176	23	12	50	27.5	291,423.33
LPV2-	177	23	14	50	27.5	291,423.33
LPV2-	178	23	18	50	27.5	291,423.33
LPV2-	179	23	21	50	27.5	301,525.00
LPV2-	180	23	22	50	27.5	291,423.33
LPV2-	181	23	28	114	35	521,993.33
LPV2-	182	24	4	50	27.5	291,423.33
LPV2-	183	24	7	50	27.5	291,423.33
LPV2-	184	24	8	50	27.5	291,423.33
LPV2-	185	24	9	50	27.5	291,423.33
LPV2-	186	24	10	50	27.5	291,423.33
LPV2-	187	24	12	50	27.5	291,423.33
LPV2-	188	24	15	50	27.5	291,423.33
LPV2-	189	24	17	50	27.5	311,626.67
LPV2-	190	24	29	50	27.5	291,423.33
LPV2-	191	24	33	50	27.5	281,321.67
LPV2-	192	24	34	50	27.5	311,626.67
LPV2-	193	24	36	50	27.5	291,423.33
LPV2-	194	25	3	50	25	296,933.33
LPV2-	195	25	4	50	25	296,933.33
LPV2-	196	25	7	50	25	296,933.33
LPV2-	197	25	8	50	25	296,933.33
LPV2-	198	25	9	50	25	296,933.33
LPV2-	199	25	13	50	25	296,933.33
LPV2-	200	25	14	50	25	278,566.67
LPV2-	201	25	15	50	25	287,750.00
LPV2-	202	25	16	50	25	287,750.00
LPV2-	203	25	17	50	25	278,566.67
LPV2-	204	25	18	50	25	287,750.00
LPV2-	205	25	19	50	25	287,750.00
LPV2-	206	25	24	50	25	278,566.67
LPV2-	207	25	24	50	25	278,566.67

Lapidsville IV - Villa Plantation
Bo. Lumingon, Tiaong, Quezon
Bidding Date & Time **July 21, 2005 at 2:00 p.m.**
Venue: **HRDD Lobby , 3rd Level**
GSIS Headquarters, Financial Center
Pasay City

Code No		Block No	Lot No	Lot Area (sqm)	Floor Area (sqm)	Minimum Offer Price (Php)
LPV4-	001	1	1	143	36	624,630.50
LPV4-	002	2	4	120	36	558,324.00
LPV4-	003	3	3	96	30	455,270.00
LPV4-	004	5	4	149	36	671,921.00
LPV4-	005	5	13	140	36	600,985.25
LPV4-	006	5	16	136	36	593,920.75
LPV4-	007	5	17	136	36	580,711.00
LPV4-	008	5	18	126	36	555,711.00
LPV4-	009	5	20	100	36	508,324.00
LPV4-	010	5	21	100	36	514,195.00
LPV4-	011	5	23	100	36	508,324.00
LPV4-	012	5	24	100	36	508,324.00
LPV4-	013	5	26	100	36	502,453.00
LPV4-	014	5	27	100	36	500,985.25
LPV4-	015	5	32	100	36	499,517.50
LPV4-	016	5	33	100	36	498,049.75
LPV4-	017	5	34	100	36	498,049.75
LPV4-	018	5	35	100	36	499,517.50
LPV4-	019	5	36	100	36	493,046.50
LPV4-	020	6	4	120	36	558,324.00
LPV4-	021	6	6	120	36	555,388.50
LPV4-	022	6	8	120	36	552,453.00
LPV4-	023	6	12	120	36	552,453.00
LPV4-	024	6	14	120	36	555,388.50
LPV4-	025	6	18	120	36	552,453.00
LPV4-	026	6	22	120	36	558,324.00
LPV4-	027	6	24	120	36	553,920.75
LPV4-	028	6	26	150	36	628,920.75
LPV4-	029	6	27	150	36	628,920.75
LPV4-	030	7	4	120	36	555,388.50
LPV4-	031	7	5	96	30	452,823.75
LPV4-	032	7	6	120	36	558,324.00
LPV4-	033	7	14	120	36	555,388.50
LPV4-	034	7	15	94	30	446,377.50
LPV4-	035	7	17	97	30	452,877.50
LPV4-	036	7	20	120	36	558,324.00
LPV4-	037	7	24	120	36	550,985.25
LPV4-	038	7	28	108	36	523,920.75
LPV4-	039	7	29	149	36	624,853.00
LPV4-	040	7	30	127	36	568,485.25
LPV4-	041	7	31	108	36	520,985.25
LPV4-	042	7	33	120	36	550,985.25
LPV4-	043	7	34	120	36	555,388.50
LPV4-	044	7	35	120	36	553,920.75
LPV4-	045	7	37	120	36	555,388.50
LPV4-	046	7	39	120	36	552,453.00
LPV4-	047	7	40	120	36	550,985.25
LPV4-	048	7	41	120	36	552,453.00
LPV4-	049	7	42	120	36	552,453.00
LPV4-	050	7	43	120	36	555,388.50
LPV4-	051	7	44	200	36	770,420.75
LPV4-	052	8	2	133	36	590,624.00
LPV4-	053	8	4	133	36	579,062.00
LPV4-	054	8	7	133	36	590,624.00
LPV4-	055	8	8	133	36	586,420.75
LPV4-	056	8	10	133	36	580,549.75
LPV4-	057	8	11	133	36	580,549.75
LPV4-	058	8	12	133	36	587,888.50
LPV4-	059	8	14	133	36	587,888.50
LPV4-	060	8	16	134	36	580,388.50
LPV4-	061	8	17	134	36	580,388.50
LPV4-	062	9	1	148	36	623,920.75
LPV4-	063	9	4	100	36	505,388.50
LPV4-	064	9	5	116	36	535,114.25
LPV4-	065	9	6	100	36	503,040.10
LPV4-	066	9	7	164	36	633,049.75
LPV4-	067	9	8	141	36	602,017.50
LPV4-	068	9	9	100	36	502,453.00
LPV4-	069	10	1	118	36	551,858.25
LPV4-	070	10	2	118	36	543,049.75
LPV4-	071	10	4	100	36	502,453.00
LPV4-	072	10	7	100	36	500,985.25
LPV4-	073	10	8	100	36	498,049.75
LPV4-	074	10	9	100	36	502,453.00
LPV4-	075	10	10	100	36	486,307.75

FH3-	022	4	25	100	29	382,700.00
FH3-	023	4	29	116	29	437,900.00
FH3-	024	5	1	116	29	437,900.00
FH3-	025	5	4	100	29	382,700.00
FH3-	026	5	5	100	29	382,700.00
FH3-	027	5	6	100	29	382,700.00
FH3-	028	5	9	100	29	382,700.00
FH3-	029	5	21	100	29	382,700.00
FH3-	030	5	25	100	29	382,700.00
FH3-	031	6	3	174	29	530,700.00
FH3-	032	6	10	166	29	514,700.00
FH3-	033	6	12	166	29	514,700.00
FH3-	034	6	14	166	29	514,700.00
FH3-	035	7	3	100	29	382,700.00
FH3-	036	7	9	100	29	382,700.00
FH3-	037	7	12	100	29	382,700.00
FH3-	038	7	26	100	29	382,700.00
FH3-	039	8	15	94	29	369,500.00
FH3-	040	8	16	114	29	433,500.00
FH3-	041	8	17	100	29	382,700.00
FH3-	042	8	18	100	29	382,700.00
FH3-	043	8	20	100	29	402,700.00
FH3-	044	8	27	110	29	424,700.00
FH3-	045	8	31	100	29	382,700.00
FH3-	046	8	32	90	29	382,700.00
FH3-	047	9	5	100	29	382,700.00
FH3-	048	9	6	100	29	382,700.00

FH3-	209	33	2	104	29	411,500.00
FH3-	210	33	3	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	211	33	5	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	212	33	6	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	213	33	8	122	29	426,700.00
FH3-	214	33	9	145	29	472,700.00
FH3-	215	33	12	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	216	33	14	104	29	411,500.00
FH3-	217	34	3	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	218	34	4	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	219	34	5	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	220	34	6	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	221	34	10	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	222	34	11	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	223	34	13	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	224	34	15	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	225	34	16	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	226	34	17	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	227	34	23	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	228	34	24	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	229	34	25	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	230	35	1	143	29	497,300.00
FH3-	231	37	6	104	29	390,700.00
FH3-	232	37	10	104	29	390,700.00
FH3-	233	37	12	103	29	409,300.00
FH3-	234	38	3	80	29	342,700.00
FH3-	235	38	4	80	29	342,700.00

LPV2-	109	15	4	50	27.5	291,423.33
LPV2-	110	15	5	50	27.5	281,321.67
LPV2-	111	15	6	50	27.5	291,423.33
LPV2-	112	15	12	50	27.5	321,725.33
LPV2-	113	15	15	50	27.5	311,626.67
LPV2-	114	15	20	50	27.5	301,525.00
LPV2-	115	15	30	50	27.5	291,423.33
LPV2-	116	15	34	50	27.5	291,423.33
LPV2-	117	15	36	50	27.5	301,525.00
LPV2-	118	15	40	50	27.5	317,667.67
LPV2-	119	15	42	50	27.5	311,626.67
LPV2-	120	15	1C	100	32	535,093.33
LPV2-	121	16	6	50	27.5	301,525.00
LPV2-	122	16	10	50	27.5	301,525.00
LPV2-	123	16	13	50	27.5	301,525.00
LPV2-	124	16	15	50	27.5	311,626.67
LPV2-	125	16	16	50	27.5	301,525.00
LPV2-	126	16	18	50	27.5	311,626.67
LPV2-	127	16	29	50	27.5	301,525.00
LPV2-	128	16	31	50	27.5	311,626.67
LPV2-	129	16	34	50	27.5	311,626.67
LPV2-	130	16	35	50	27.5	301,525.00
LPV2-	131	16	38	50	27.5	311,626.67
LPV2-	132	16	39	50	27.5	311,626.67
LPV2-	133	16	4F	100	35	505,708.67
LPV2-	134	17	7	50	27.5	301,525.00
LPV2-	135	17	8	50	27.5	311,626.67

LPV4-	076	10	11	116	36	535,114.25
LPV4-	077	10	12	145	36	591,469.00
LPV4-	078	11	1	116	36	540,114.25
LPV4-	079	11	2	118	36	547,453.00
LPV4-	080	11	5	60	30	407,931.25
LPV4-	081	11	6	60	30	405,465.00
LPV4-	082	11	7	60	30	407,931.25
LPV4-	083	11	8	60	30	412,523.75
LPV4-	084	11	9	60	30	406,708.13
LPV4-	085	11	10	60	30	407,931.25
LPV4-	086	11	11	60	30	406,708.13
LPV4-	087	11	12	60	30	407,931.25
LPV4-	088	11	13	60	30	406,708.13
LPV4-	089	11	14	60	30	405,465.00
LPV4-	090	11	15	115	36	534,082.00
LPV4-	091	11	16	143	36	602,614.25
LPV4-	092	12	1	98	36	500,388.50
LPV4-	093	12	5	50	27.5	320,088.44
LPV4-	094	12	9	60	30	411,600.63
LPV4-	095	12	10	100	36	503,920.75
LPV4-	096	12	12	100	36	505,368.50
LPV4-	097	12	14	50	27.5	320,088.44
LPV4-	098	12	16	50	27.5	320,088.44
LPV4-	099	12	18	94	36	485,985.25
LPV4-	100	12	19	50	27.5	320,088.44
LPV4-	101	12	20	100	36	500,985.25
LPV-4	102	12	21	122	36	555,985.25

GENERAL GUIDELINES

(For Home Office Only)

1) Interested parties are required to secure copies of: (a) INSTRUCTION TO OFFERORS, (b) OFFER FORMS from the Disposition of Assets Department, 5th Level, GSIS Headquarters Bldg., Financial Center,
2) Sealed proposals in triplicate will be received at the 3rd Level, HRDD Lobby, GSIS Headquarters Bldg., Financial Center, starting from 8:00 A.M. BUT NOT LATER THAN 1:30 P.M. on July 21, 2005 and
3) Each offer proposal shall be accompanied by a DEPOSIT IN CASH or CERTIFIED CASHIER's/MANAGER's CHECK issued in Metro Manila, payable to the GSIS in an amount equivalent to at least TEN (10%) PERCENT of the total offer price.
4) Properties will be sold on "AS IS, WHERE IS BASIS" and the winning offeror shall take possession of the property without seeking any assistance from the GSIS.
5) If the buyer who submitted the best offer refuses to push through with the purchase of the property for which he/she made an offer,during and after the auction, his/her deposit shall be FORFEITED in favor of GSIS and failure of auction shall be declared.
6) A buyer by submitting an offer, shall be deemed to have inspected the property and is aware of the physical and legal conditions of the property.
7) The GSIS reserves the right to reject any or all offers, to waive any informality found therein or to accept any proposal which in its judgement is advantageous to the GSIS.
8) All awards by the GSIS ACQUIRED ASSETS EVALUATION COMMITTEE (AAEC) are final.
9) FOR ASSETS TO BE DISPOSED BY THE FIELD OFFICE, FORMS CAN BE SECURED FROM THE RESPECTIVE FIELD OFFICES.

(Original Signed) **ARNALDO C. CUASAY**
SVP-Housing & Real Property Development Group
Chairman, ACQUIRED ASSETS EVALUATION COMMITTEE

BAGUIO CITY & BENGUET

	LOT ONLY	TCT NO	AREA (sqm)	MINIMUM OFFER
1	Lot 3-13, Amparo Sudivision Baguio City	T-35228	1,600	5,600,000.00
2	Lot 1, Pinsao, Longlong, Baguio City	T-31240	529	1,687,000.00
3	Lot 5, Pinsao Longlong, Baguio City	T-31238	618	1,854,000.00
4	Lot 3-13-1, Tocmo Itogon, Benguet	T-17830	2,500	2,300,000.00

BIDDING DATE July 22,2005
BIDDING TIME 2: 00, PM
VENUE GSIS Baguio Field Office Baguio City
FOR INQUIRIES, CALL
(02) 551-1615, OVP, AREA I
(074) 44 Manager's Office

PAMPANGA

	LOT ONLY	TCT NO	AREA (sqm)	MINIMUM OFFER
1	L-4, B 29 Clarkview Angeles City, Pampanga	55223	551	1,928,500.00
2	L-7, B-10 Lakandula Mabalacat, Pampanga	531578-R	300	900,000.00
3	L-1, B-5 Lakandula Mabalacat, Pampanga	211748-R	786	2,358,000.00
4	L-10, B-7 Felisa 1 Subd Malabanas, Angeles City	63408	396	891,000.00
5	L-14, B-8, 2141 Plaridel St. Lourdes Sur, Angeles City	74822	150	3,000,000.00
6	L-16, B-8, 2141 Plaridel St. Lourdes Sur, Angeles City	74823	150	3,000,000.00

BIDDING DATE & TIME July 22, 2005 at 2.00 p.m
VENUE Multi Purpose Hall, 3rd fl GSIS Field Office MacArthur Hi-way, Sindalan San Fernando City, Pampanga
FOR INQUIRIES, CALL
(02) 551-1615, OVP, AREA I
(045)636 Manager's Office

NUEVA ECIJA

	HOUSE & LOT	TCT NO	AREA (sqm)	MINIMUM OFFER
1	La Torre, Talavera Nueva Ecija	NT-97558	573	593,000.00
2	Balisan St., Aduas Cabanatuan City, N.Ecija	T-14775	860	584,600.00
3	Valino St. Aduas Cabanatuan, N.E.	T-14146	820	937,000.00

BIDDING DATE & TIME July 22, 2005 at 2.00 p.m
VENUE GSIS Cabanatuan Field Maharlika Highway Cabanatuan City
FOR INQUIRIES, CALL
(02) 551-1615, OVP, AREA I
(044)463 Manager's Office

BUTUAN CITY

		TCT NO	AREA (sqm)	MINIMUM OFFER
1	Old GSIS Office Alviola Village, Butuan City Agusan del Norte	RT-8792 to RT-8799	2,402	5,723,162.00

BIDDING DATE & TIME Aug 3, 2005 at 2.00 p.m
VENUE GSIS Field Office National Highway, Liberta Butuan City
FOR INQUIRIES, CALL
(02) 551-1611, OVP, AREA II
(085)342 Manager's Office

ILOILO

		TCT NO	AREA (sqm)	MINIMUM OFFER
	LOT ONLY			
1	San Ramon St. Iloilo City	T-39868) T-39869)	132 421	2,584,200.00
2	Lot 18, Blk 4, Ph 3 Alta Tierra Village, Jaro, Iloilo	T-44485	212	636,000.00
3	Lot 19, Blk 4, Ph 3 Alta Tierra Village, Jaro, Iloilo	T-44498	240	720,000.00
4	Lot 13, Blk 8, Ph 2 Alta Tierra Village, Jaro, Iloilo	T-42624	180	540,000.00
5	Lot 12 Blk 4, Ph 4 Alta Tierra Village, Jaro, Iloilo	T-48103	425	1,062,500.00
6	Lot 14, Blk 3, Ph 4 Alta Tierra Village, Jaro, Iloilo	T-48089	400	1,000,000.00
	HOUSE & LOT			
8	Brgy Dungon B, Jaro Iloilo City	T-106619	499	1,679,750.00

BIDDING DATE & TIME July 22, 2005 at 9.00 a.m
VENUE GSIS Field Office Iznart St., Iloilo City
FOR INQUIRIES, CALL
(02) 551-1611, OVP, AREA II
(033)337 Manager's Office

BATANGAS

	HOUSE & LOT	TCT NO	AREA (sqm)	MINIMUM OFFER
	STO NINO VILLA DE LIPA, MARAUOY, LIPA CITY			
1	BLK 2, LOT 5	T-95872	124	347,000.00
2	BLK 2, LOT 11	T-95878	124	306,000.00
3	BLK 2, LOT 24	T-95891	90	250,000.00
4	BLK 2, LOT 26	T-95893	88	232,000.00
5	BLK 3, LOT 12	T-95912	140	348,000.00
6	BLK 3, LOT 14	T-95913	80	249,000.00
7	BLK 3, LOT 24	T-95924	80	233,000.00
8	BLK 3, LOT 28	T-95928	80	241,000.00
9	BLK 3, LOT 35	T-95935	150	325,000.00
10	BLK 3, LOT 39	T-95939	90	244,000.00
11	BLK 3, LOT 43	T-95943	90	223,000.00
12	BLK 3, LOT 44	T-95944	60	209,000.00
13	BLK 3, LOT 45	T-95945	90	226,000.00
14	BLK 3, LOT 51	T-95951	60	236,000.00
15	BLK 4, LOT 3	T-97028	92	309,000.00
16	BLK 4, LOT 11	T-97036	110	260,000.00
17	BLK 4, LOT 25	T-97050	100	312,000.00
18	BLK 5, LOTS 2 & 3))	T-95956 & T-95958	222	557,000.00
19	BLK 5, LOT 14	T-95969	90	224,000.00
20	BLK 5, LOT 24	T-95979	109	256,000.00
21	BLK 5, LOT 27	T-95982	60	204,000.00
22	BLK 5, LOT 28	T-95983	90	227,000.00
23	BLK 5, LOTS 31 & 32))	T-95986 & T-95987	240	722,000.00
24	BLK 6, LOT 11 "B"	T-95833	120	313,000.00
25	BLK 6, LOT 15 "B"	T-95837	120	324,000.00
26	BLK 7, LOT 21 "A"	T-95988	132	426,000.00
27	BLK 8, LOT 9	T-96001	140	368,000.00
28	BLK 8, LOTS 23 & 24	T-96015 & T-96016	200	523,000.00
29	BLK 8, LOT 27	T-96019	130	289,000.00
30	BLK 8, LOT 39	T-96031	132	328,000.00
31	BLK 9, LOT 7	T-95846	124	319,000.00
32	BLK 9, LOT 14	T-95863	96	306,000.00
33	BLK 9, LOT 17	T-95856	124	387,000.00
34	BLK 10, LOT 12	T-94159 & T-94161	240	603,000.00
35	BLK 10, LOT 29	T-94169	123	290,000.00
36	BLK 10, LOT 30	T-94170	77	227,000.00
37	BLK 10, LOT 31	T-94171	123	299,000.00
38	BLK 10, LOT 72	T-94212	145	424,000.00
39	BLK 11, LOT 44	T-94257	135	434,000.00
40	BLK 11, LOT 62	T-94275	91	353,000.00
41	BLK 11, LOT 76	T-94289	117	354,000.00
42	BLK 12, LOT 24	T-94120	122	309,000.00
43	BLK 12, LOT 26	T-94122	122	309,000.00
44	BLK 12, LOT 37	T-94133	78	226,000.00
45	BLK 13, LOTS 9 & 11	T-94082 & T-94084	261	623,000.00
46	BLK 14, LOT 9	T-99775	90	246,000.00
47	BLK 14, LOT 11	T-99777	90	244,000.00
48	BLK 14, LOT 33	T-99806	137	409,000.00
49	BLK 15, LOT 13	T-99814	60	204,000.00
50	BLK 15, LOT 31	T-99832	60	182,000.00
51	BLK 15, LOT 33	T-99834	60	187,000.00
52	BLK 16, LOT 2	T-99839	86	242,000.00
53	BLK 16, LOT 14	T-99851	60	203,000.00
54	BLK 16, LOT 15	T-99852	60	184,000.00
55	BLK 16, LOT 34	T-99871	60	188,000.00
56	BLK 17, LOT 17	T-99890	80	214,000.00
57	BLK 17, LOT 44	T-99917	98	266,000.00
58	BLK 17, LOT 45	T-99918	97	254,000.00
59	BLK 18, LOT 2	T-99929	72	269,000.00
60	BLK 18, LOT 11	T-99938	128	353,000.00
61	BLK 18, LOT 13	T-99940	90	264,000.00
	STO NINO VILLA DE LIPA 2, SABANG, LIPA CITY			
62	BLK 7, LOT 9	T-116037	81.8	378,000.00
63	BLK 10, LOT 4	T-116162	60	270,000.00
64	BLK 10, LOT 6	T-116164	60	270,000.00
65	BLK 10, LOT 36	T-116194	40	182,000.00
66	BLK 13, LOT 13	T-116298	40	182,000.00
	TIERRA VERDE SUBD., BATANGAS CITY			
67	BLK 7, LOT 28	T-34014	98	376,000.00
68	BLK 9, LOT 6	T-33985	98	376,000.00
69	BLK 9, LOT 42	T - 987	109	405,000.00
70	BLK 10, LOT 14	T-1001	99	382,000.00
71	BLK 11, Lot 6	T-1043	98	382,000.00
72	BLK 11, LOT 28	T-34107	98	376,000.00

BIDDING DATE & TI July 22, 2005 at 2.00 p.
VENUE GSIS Building Alangilan, Batangas Ci
FOR INQUIRIES, CALL
(02) 551-1615, OVP, AREA I
(043) 7234345, Office of the Manager

DIPOLOG CITY

	HOUSE & LOT	TCT NO	AREA (sqm)	MINIMUM OFFER
	VICTORIA HILLS SUBD., Dipolog City			
1	Blk 1, Lot 13	61094	90	189,000.00
2	Blk 1, Lot 14	61095	90	189,000.00
3	Blk 1, Lot 30	61102	96	199,350.00
4	Blk 1, Lot 37	62332	95	198,250.00
5	Blk 1, Lot 38	61973	93	192,300.00
6	Blk 1, Lot 39	58929	103	203,300.00
7	Blk 3, Lot 6	61119	90	189,000.00
8	Blk 3, Lot 13	61126	90	192,750.00
9	Blk 5, Lot 12	57045	100	212,766.67
10	Blk 6, Lot 15	57027	100	224,362.50
11	Blk 6, Lot 17	61133	90	189,000.00
12	Blk 6, Lot 18	61134	90	189,000.00
13	Blk 6, Lot 23	61137	104	222,400.00
14	Blk 6, Lot 26	61142	90	192,750.00
15	Blk 6, Lot 30	61144	90	189,000.00
16	Blk 6, Lot 32	61146	90	189,000.00
17	Blk 6, Lot 38	61997	90	192,750.00
18	Blk 7, Lot 2	61996	114	250,400.00
19	Blk 7, Lot 14	57243	100	224,362.50
20	Blk 8, Lot 2	57964	108	222,366.67
21	Blk 8, Lot 13	57957	100	224,362.50
22	Blk 10, Lot 12	60396	90	189,000.00
23	Blk 11, Lot 16	52145	100	215,287.50
24	Blk 11, Lot 18	60408	90	189,000.00
25	Blk 12, Lot 7	60421	90	189,000.00
26	Blk 12, Lot 9	60423	90	189,000.00
27	Blk 13, Lot 1	60430	90	189,000.00
28	Blk 13, Lot 3	60432	90	189,000.00
29	Blk 13, Lot 4	60433	90	189,000.00
30	Blk 13, Lot 5	60378	90	189,000.00
31	Blk 13, Lot 6	60377	90	189,000.00
32	Blk 13, Lot 7	60376	90	189,000.00
33	Blk 13, Lot 9	60374	90	189,000.00
34	Blk 13, Lot 18	52655	100	215,287.50
35	Blk 14, Lot 2	60369	90	189,000.00
36	Blk 14, Lot 3	61127	90	192,750.00
37	Blk 14, Lot 5	55669	100	224,362.50
38	Blk 14, Lot 7	60364	90	189,000.00
39	Blk 14, Lot 8	60363	90	189,000.00
40	Blk 14, Lot 15	61154	90	189,000.00
41	Blk 14, Lot 17	61156	90	189,000.00
42	Blk 14, Lot 19	55670	100	224,362.50
43	Blk 14, Lot 35	52677	132	251,166.67
44	Blk 16, Lot 4	57240	100	212,766.67
45	Blk 16, Lot 12	57248	112	227,166.67
46	Blk 25, Lot 2	52895	100	215,287.50
47	Blk 26, Lot 5	53031	100	228,000.00
48	Blk 28, Lot 4	53043	100	224,362.50
49	Blk 28, Lot 7	53026	100	233,400.00
50	Blk 28, Lot 27	53647	100	208,733.33
51	Blk 28, Lot 43	53658	100	215,287.50
52	Blk 29 Lot 31	54156	100	215,287.50
53	Blk 29, Lot 35	54160	100	233,400.00
54	Blk 30, Lot 18	55919	100	224,362.50
55	Blk 31, Lot 8		100	219,825.00
56	Blk 33, Lot 7	56187	100	224,362.50
57	Blk 35, Lot 7	55925	100	224,362.50
58	Blk 36, Lot 12	54818	100	224,362.50
59	Blk 37, Lot 18	54506	100	219,825.00
60	Blk 38, Lot 9	54516	100	219,825.00
61	Blk 39, Lot 12	55306	100	219,825.00
62	Blk 39. Lot 28	55313	100	228,900.00
63	Blk 40, Lot 12	55320	100	224,362.50
64	Blk 40, Lot 21	55329	100	224,362.50
65	Blk 40, Lot 23	55331	100	224,362.50
66	Blk 41, Lot 2	55340	100	229,425.00
67	Blk 41, Lot 7	57189	100	224,362.50
68	Blk 41, Lot 13	57186	100	224,362.50
69	Blk 42, Lot 3	56198	100	224,362.50

BIDDING DATE & TIME July 22, 2005 at 9.00 a
VENUE GSIS Field Office Minaog, Dipolog City
FOR INQUIRIES, CALL
(02) 551-1611, OVP, AREA II
(065)212-5 Manager's Office

NEGROS ORIENTAL

	HOUSE & LOT	TCT NO	AREA (sqm)	MINIMUM OFFER
1	Lot 8, Blk. 1 Judyville Subd., Sibulan, Neg. Or.	31869	H-30 L-135	395,880.00
2	Lot 17, Blk. 16 Judyville Subd., Sibulan, Neg. Or.	32135	H- 30 L- 101	299,190.25

BIDDING DATE & TIME July 22, 2005 at 9.00 a
VENUE Office of the Manager 2nd Floor, GSIS Buildi Daro, Dumaguete City
FOR INQUIRIES, CALL
(02) 551-1611, OVP, AREA II
(035) 225-4032, Office of the Manager

BICOL REGION

		TCT NO	AREA (sqm)	MINIMUM OFFER
	HOUSE & LOT			
1	Lot 9 Blk 22 Villa Corazon Del Rosario, Naga City	T-25729	H-30 L-135	463,800.00
2	Lot 5 Blk 20 Villa Corazon Del Rosario, Naga City	T-22455	H- 30 L- 101	368,600.00
3	Lot 26 Blk 5 Villa Corazon Del Rosario, Naga City	T-25355	H- 36 L- 155	536,960.00
4	Lot 6 Blk 22 Villa Corazon Del Rosario, Naga City	T-25849	H- 36 L- 110	410,950.00
5	Lot 13 Blk 5 Progress Hon Canaman, Cam. Sur	T-18481	H- 24 L- 61	208,400.00
6	Lot 19 Blk 1 Progress Hon Canaman, Cam. Sur	T-32427	H- 36 L- 167	470,800.00
7	Lot 24 Blk 8 Progress Hon Canaman, Cam. Sur	T-18530	H- 24 L- 113	312,400.00
8	Lot 14 Blk 5 Progress Hon Canaman, Cam. Sur	T-18482	H- 24 L- 81	207,900.00
9	Lot 16 Blk 5 Progress Hon Canaman, Cam. Sur	T-18484	H- 24 L- 60	176,400.00
10	Lot 8 Blk 2 Progress Home Canaman, Cam. Sur	T-18390	H- 24 L- 60	211,200.00
11	Lot 11 Blk 1 Progress Hon Canaman, Cam. Sur	T-18366	H- 31.5 L- 121	378,080.00
12	Lot 16 Blk 3 Progress Hon Canaman, Cam. Sur	T-18408	H- 36 L- 140	402,400.00
13	Lot 23 Blk 21 Progress Ho Canaman, Cam. Sur	T-18792	H- 24 L- 131	348,400.00
14	Lot 10 Blk 5 Progress Hon Canaman, Cam. Sur	T-18674	H- 24 L- 68	227,200.00
	LOT ONLY			
15	Lot 18 Blk 1 Villa Corazon Del Rosario, Naga City	T-22208	L- 100	280,000.00
16	Barrio Obaliw,(Talongog) Oas, Albay	T-35051	L- 452	452,000.00

BIDDING DATE & Tii July 22, 2005 at 2.00 p.m
VENUE Conference Room, 2nd F GSIS Naga Field Office Del Rosario, Naga City
FOR INQUIRIES, CALL
(02) 551-1615, OVP, AREA I
(054)472-5248 Manager's Office

TACLOBAN CITY, LEYTE

		TCT NO	AREA (sqm)	MINIMUM OFFER
	HOUSE & LOT			
1	Lot 11, Blk 1, Ph 5 Ext. V & G Subd. Tacloban City	T-2558	192	480,000.00
2	Lot 8, Blk 15, Ph 3A7 V & G Subd. Tacloban City	T-40109	75	312,744.00
3	Lot 20, Blk 15, Ph 3A7 V & G Subd. Tacloban City	T-40121	75	312,744.00
4	Lot 10, Blk 7, Ph3A7 V & G Subd. Tacloban City	T-40048	71	287,528.00
5	Lot 7, Blk 15, Ph 3A7 V & G Subd. Tacloban City	T-40108	75	329,268.00
6	Lot 8, Blk 10, Ph 2B V & G Subd. Tacloban City	T-26973	169	584,304.00
7	Lot 24, Blk 5 Ph4-Ext V & G Subd. Tacloban City	T-3221	180	511,536.00
8	Lot 9, Blk 11, Ph 2B V & G Subd. Tacloban City	T-29795	180	449,520.00
9	Lot 92, Sunriseville Marasbaras, Tacloban City	T-36342	78	303,060.00

BIDDING DATE & Tii July 22, 2005 at 9.00 a.m
VENUE Conference Room, 3rd F GSIS Building Marasbaras, Tacloban City
FOR INQUIRIES, CALL
(02) 551-1611, OVP, AREA II
(053)323-7275 Mnager's Office

MAGUINDANAO, SULTAN KUDARAT & COTABATO CITY

		TCT NO	AREA (sqm)	MINIMUM OFFER
1	Lot only Dicolangan, Poblacion Ampatuan, Maguindanao	T-1393	596	65,360.00
2	Agricultural Lot Brgy Tumalo, Lambayong Sultan Kudarat	T-45875	99,178	892,602.00
3	Lot w/ one-storey residenc Old Tamontaka Road, Brgy Tamontaka Cotabato City	T-41123	400	128,000.00

BIDDING DATE & Tii July 22, 2005 at 9.00 a.m
VENUE GSIS Field Office Gov Gutierrez Avenue Cotabato City
FOR INQUIRIES, CALL
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(064)421-3215 Manager's Office

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5) All awards by the GSIS ACQUIRED ASSETS EVALUATION COMMITTEE (AAEC) are final.
6) FOR ASSETS TO BE DISPOSED BY THE FIELD OFFICE, FORMS CAN BE SECURED FROM THE RESPECTIVE FIELD OFFICES.

(Original Signed) ARNALDO C. CUASAY
SVP-Housing & Real Property Development Group
Chairman, ACQUIRED ASSETS EVALUATION COMMITTEE

(PDI-June 29, 2005)

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J. Lanuza Auctioneer
(PDI - JUNE 29, 2005)

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE ESTATE OF THE LATE ERNESTO A. SORIANO HAS BEEN EXTRA JUDICIALLY SETTLED BY HIS HEIRS ON JUNE 24, 2005, BEFORE NOTARY PUBLIC RYAN ESPINOSA. PER DOC. NO. 358 PAGE 72 BOOK VII SERIES OF 2005 (PDI JUNE 29, JULY 6 & 13, 2005)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Tranquilino M. Tinana has been extrajudicially settled by his heirs as per Doc. No. 161, Page No. 33, Book No. 8, Series of 2005 of Atty. Romerico Espora of Quezon City. (PDI-June 15, 22 & 29, 2005)

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given of the extrajudicial settlement of estate of the late GREGORIA APOLINARIO by her legal heirs with waiver as per Doc. No. 193; Page No. 40; Book No. 579; Series of 2005 before Notary Public Cecilio C. Casalla of Pasay City (PDI-June 22, 29 & July 6, 2005)

NOTICE OF LOSS

LOSS of Ayala Corp. Stck Cert. #4415 for 18,439 shares issued to ANTONIO MA. GUERRERO & /or CONSUELO S. GUERRERO. (PDI - June 29, July 6 & 13, 2005)

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RTW Consign 09178830002

RTW Consign 09178830002

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE

STAY-IN SECRETARY 18-25 years old 3638247

FEMALE

SALESLADY
Female, at least 2nd yr coll.
ACCTG. CLERK/ASSISTANT
Female, BS Accountancy Grad, 25 yrs. old below
Call 7259040 Monday to Friday 1:00 -5:00 pm. Look for Ms. Louie.

MALE/FEMALE

BSP•BSN•PT•MT
Any Allied Health Grads up to P45T/ Mo! 8927828

CAREGIVER 5280730

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DAVAO CITY WATER DISTRICT
J.P. LAUREL AVENUE BAJADA, DAVAO CITY
Tel Nos (082) 221-9400 Tel Fax OGM (082) 226-4885
PURCHASING (082) 224-5392
Email address: dcwd@davao-water.gov.ph

INVITATION ON TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Davao City Water District hereby invites manufacturers and suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid, in accordance with I.R.R. of R.A 9184, for the supply and delivery of Brass Fittings.

PACKAGE I. Brass Copper to Copper for CTS P.E. Pipes (5 Items)

Qty.	Description
1,300 pcs.	Copper to Copper 3 parts Coupling, ¾ "dia., Compression Type
430 pcs.	Copper to Copper 3 parts Coupling, 1 "dia., Compression Type
130 pcs.	Copper to Copper 3 parts Coupling, 1 ½ "dia., Compression Type
600 pcs.	Copper to Copper 3 parts Coupling, 2 "dia., Compression Type
5,500 pcs.	Copper to Copper 3 parts Coupling with stopper ¾ "dia., Compression Type

ABC: Php 3,421,240.00 Bidding Fee: Php 1,500.00

PACKAGE II. Brass Copper to Male Iron for CTS P.E. Pipes (3 Items)

Qty.	Description
7,000 pcs.	Copper to Male Iron Pipe Thread Coupling, ¾ "dia., Compression Type
220 pcs.	Copper to Male Iron Pipe Thread Coupling, 1 ½" dia., Compression Type
250 pcs.	Copper to Male Iron Pipe Thread Coupling, 2" Compression Type

ABC: Php 1,279,020.00 Bidding Fee: Php 1,500.00

PACKAGE III. Brass Straight Meter Valve and Brass Tee for CTS P.E. Pipes (4 Items)

Qty.	Description
4,280 pcs.	Straight Meter Valve with Lockwing, ¾"
20 pcs.	Straight Meter Valve with Lockwing, 1 ½"
150 pcs.	Brass Tee Coupling, ¾" dia. x ¾" dia., Compression Type (both ends & outlet side)
50 pcs.	Brass Tee Coupling, 1 "dia. x ¾" dia., Compression Type (both ends & outlet side)

ABC: Php1,204,250.00 Bidding Fee: Php 1,500.00

PACKAGE IV. Brass Corporation Stop for CTS P.E. Pipes (3 Items)

Qty.	Description
2,420 pcs.	Corporation Stop, F700, ¾" dia., Compression Type
260 pcs.	Corporation Stop, F700, 1" dia., Compression Type
90 pcs.	Corporation Stop, F70, 2" dia. Compression Type

ABC: Php 1,205,800.00 Bidding Fee: Php 1,500.00

To qualify to apply for eligibility and to bid, two (2) samples of each type of brass fittings shall be submitted on or before July 4, 2005 and must pass the testing and evaluation process. (Testing and evaluation shall include pressure testing and fitting of sample to existing service lines and fittings)

Package I
Copper to Copper 3 parts Coupling, ¾" dia., Compression Type
Copper to Copper 3 parts Coupling with Stopper, ¾" dia., Compression Type
Package II
Copper to Male Iron Pipe Thread Coupling, 3/4" dia., Compression Type
Package III
Straight Meter Valve with Lockwing, ¾"
Brass Tee Coupling, ¾" dia. x ¾" dia.
Package IV
Corporation Stop, F700, 3/4" dia., Compression Type

Eligibility Requirements, Specification, details and bidding documents are available to interested applicants upon payment of non-refundable fee as indicated per package from July 11-15, 2005 at the BAC Secretariat during its business hours.

Pre-Bid Conference shall be held at the Board Conference Room of DCWD Admin. Building on the following date: July 18, 2005, 9:00 A.M.

Submission and opening of sealed bids shall be at the same venue, which shall be on: July 20, 2005, 9:00 A.M. Brass-Fittings

Davao City Water District reserves the right to any or all bids, to waive any defect or formality therein, to assume no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expense incurred in the preparation of bids, and to accept the offer most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) ALFONSO E. LAID
Chair, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI--June 22 & 29, 2005)

Notice of Loss

This is to inform the public that Marcel Trading Corporation, owner of several shares of stocks of Philippine Bio-Industries, Inc. declared the following stock certificates are lost.

Stock Certificate No.	No. of Shares
2	104, 998
9	234, 000
11	81, 000
13	75, 838
15	24, 162

All reasonable efforts were undertaken by the present management of Marcel Trading Corporation, but to no avail. If no contest received, new certificate will be issued

The Management
Marcel Trading Corporation

(PDI--June 22, 29 & July 6, 2005)

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE/FEMALE

HIGHLY PAID
•CALL CENTER AGENTS
(Sales & Travel Agents)
20-45yo fluent in English
•FOOD TECH graduate w/ related or sales exp 22-27yo
•ELECTRICAL/ELECTRONIC SALES ENGINEERS
Bring resume @ Unit E 1675 Rizalina2 Bldg Quezon Ave QC email:manos@mozcom.com 4112630•9298328•9269857

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE/FEMALE

ACCOUNTANT
Qualifications
- Accountancy graduate
- Male or female
- At least 25 yrs old
- w/at least 1 yr experience
- Computer literate

Apply personally. Bring your complete resume, transcript of records, and 2x2 photo, Mondays or Fridays 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.; Saturdays 8:00 - 12nn to SFD,Oppen Bldg., 319 G. Puyat st., Makati City

PMAP HOLDS ITS 507TH PMAP GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING (GMM) ON JUNE 29, 2005 AT THE DUSIT HOTEL NIKKO

Pinoy HR abroad and on board: What makes them successful?

THE PHENOMENON of globalization opens a world of challenges and opportunities for Filipinos to work in different countries across the globe. Along with the rising number of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs), more and more Filipino HR professionals are seizing employment opportunities abroad and taking on key regional roles. Many have succeeded, while some have failed.

Which unique competencies and traits can Filipino HR professionals leverage on to succeed internationally? What are the potential pitfalls and barriers to look out for? Is there a preference for Filipino HR in the region vis-a-vis other nationalities? What new opportunities are emerging?

The 507th GMM will delve into the distinctive characteristics of Filipino HR professionals abroad from the experiences and views of local and foreign executives who were either HR professionals abroad or worked with Filipino HR professionals inside and outside the country. Understanding the persona of the Filipino HR professional abroad allows us to appreciate the unique values and professional ethics of Filipinos to succeed in a foreign environment.

POEA
24-HR HOTLINES
722-1144 • 722-1155

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

The country's leading newspaper is looking for:

DESK EDITORS

Qualifications:
- College graduate major in Journalism or any Social Sciences course
- Must have 3 years experience in newspaper Journalism
- With at least 1 year experience in editing and designing/layouting pages

Responsibilities:
- Coordinates news gathering activities
- Edits stories and designs the layout of newspaper pages

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE – ADVERTISING

Qualifications:
- College graduate preferably Marketing or any Business course
- Knowledge in basic computer operations
- Interpersonal skills, Report Writing skills, Presentation skills, Filing skills, Communication skills

Responsibility:
- Responsible for establishing and maintaining relationships with clients and ad agencies with the end view of soliciting ad placement to meet overall sales quota.

GRAPHIC ARTIST

Responsibilities:
- College graduate preferably Fine Arts
- With background in Computer, Photoshop, Pagemaker, CorelDraw
- Knowledgeable in manual and computer based illustration, page design and artwork skills
- 1 year experience as Graphic Artist

PERSONNEL ASSISTANT

Qualifications:
- Graduate of Psychology or Behavioral Science
- At least 2 years experience in recruitment and selection
- Familiar with psychological tests
- Knows how to use office software
- Interpersonal and Communication Skills, Analytical Skills, Report Writing Skills

Responsibilities:
- To provide recruitment, selection and employment services and maintain an HR Information System

ACCOUNTING STAFF

Qualifications:
- College graduate major in Accounting
- 1 year experience in this job or other similar jobs
- Knowledge of basic accounting principles
- Knowledge basic computer operation
- Accounting skills, Report Writing skills, Ability to prepare check, Interpersonal skills, Filing skills

Send your application letter and comprehensive resumé or e-mail to:

HR MANAGEMENT SERVICES HEAD
Philippine Daily Inquirer
Chino Roces Avenue (formerly Pasong Tamo)
Corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City
E-mail: recruitment@inquirer.com.ph

Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN
Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City

BULLETIN OF VACANT POSITIONS

In Compliance with RA 7041

A. **GRAFT INVESTIGATION & PROSECUTION OFFICER I - SG 26

1. **PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION & ADMINISTRATIVE ADJUDICATION BUREAU (PIAB) A** - Item No. OMBA-GIO1-46-1998; (1 Position)
2. **PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION & ADMINISTRATIVE ADJUDICATION BUREAU (PIAB) C** - Item No. OMBA GIO1-131-1998; (1 Position)
3. **PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION & ADMINISTRATIVE ADJUDICATION BUREAU (PIAB) D** - Item No. OMBA-GIO1-65-1998; OMBA-GIO1-71-1998; OMBA-GIO1-107-1998; (3 positions)

Education: Bachelor of laws; Experience: 3 years of relevant experience; Training: 24 hours of relevant training; Eligibility: RA 1080 (BAR)

B. **GRAFT INVESTIGATION & PROSECUTION OFFICER II - SG 27

1. **OFFICE OF THE CHIEF LEGAL COUNSEL (OLA)** - Item No. OMBA-GIO2-112-1998; (1 Position)
2. **PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION & ADMINISTRATIVE ADJUDICATION BUREAU (PIAB) A** - Item No. OMBA GIO2-10-1998; OMBA-GIO2-12-1998; (2 Positions)
3. **PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION & ADMINISTRATIVE ADJUDICATION BUREAU (PIAB) B** - Item No. OMBA-GIO2-19-1998; OMBA-GIO2-20-1998; (2 Positions)
4. **PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION & ADMINISTRATIVE ADJUDICATION BUREAU (PIAB) C** - Item No. OMBA-GIO2-31-1998; OMBA-GIO2-34-1998; (2 Positions)
5. **PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION & ADMINISTRATIVE ADJUDICATION BUREAU (PIAB) D** - Item No. OMBA-GIO2-36-1998; (1 Position)

Education: Bachelor of Laws; Experience: 4 years of relevant experience; Traininig: 24 hours of relevant training; Eligibility: RA 1080 (BAR)

Applicants should submit within ten (10) working days from the date of this publication to the Human Resource Management Division at the above address, the following requirements:

1) A letter stating the position applied for;
2) Duly accomplished Personal Data Sheet (CSC Form 212);
3) 1"x1" picture (colored)
4) *Bar/Board Rating or CSC Certificate of Eligibility;
5) *Transcript of Records;
6) *Certificates of Seminars/Training attended;
7) *Service Records or Certificates from previous/present employers stating the positions assumed and corresponding actual duties and responsibilities (if applicable)
8) *Performance Appraisal Reports for the last two rating periods (for current government employees only);
9) Statement duly signed by the applicant as to any relative(s) within the fourth degree of consaguinity or affinity, currently employed with the Office of the Ombudsman.

*Where photocopies are filed, the documents must be certified as true copies by the proper authorities or the applicant may present the originals to the Human Resource Management Officer for comparison with the photocopies.

**This is a republication of the vacancies published on December 18, 2004 & February 1, 2005. Previous application were already evaluated and processed. New applications will no longer be accepted.

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Center for Health Development – Bicol
BICOL MEDICAL CENTER
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Naga City

June 20, 2005

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

1. The **BICOL MEDICAL CENTER**, through ***General Appropriations Act of 2005*** and ***TRUST FUND*** intends to apply specified sums for the following projects:
   a. **Project : Procurement of Various Office Equipment (IAEB No. 2005-09)**
   Approved Budget for the Contract : ***TWO MILLION ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY ONE THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED Philippine Pesos (PhP2,181,600.00) (Trust Fund)***
   Sale of Bid Documents : June 27 to August 1, 2005
   Pre-Bid Conference : July 29, 2005, 9:00 AM, BMC Library
   Bid Opening : August 10, 2005, 9:00 AM, BMC Library
   b. **Project : 1. Procurement of Radiology and Laboratory Supplies and Reagents (IAEB No. 2005-010)**
   Approved Budget for the Contract: ***SIX MILLION FIVE HUNDRED THIRTY SEVEN THOUSAND Philippine Pesos (PhP6,537,000.00) (GAA)***
   2. Fixed Rate Variable Volume Scheme for Hematology and Clinical Chemistry Supplies and Reagents (Laboratory) (IAEB No. 2005-011)
   Approved Budget for the Contract : ***ELEVEN MILLION FOUR HUNDRED THOUSAND Philippine Pesos (PhP11,400,000.00) (Trust Fund)***
   Sale of Bid Documents : June 27 to July 29, 2005
   Pre-Bid Conference : July 27, 2005, 9:00 AM, BMC Library
   Bid Opening : August 8, 2005, 9:00 AM, BMC Library
   c. **Project : Labor and Materials: Delivery and Installation of One (1) Set New PABX Telephone System Including Integration of New Paging System (IAEB No. 2005-012)**
   Approved Budget for the Contract : ***ONE MILLION SEVEN HUNDRED THOUSAND Philippine Pesos (PhP1,700,000.00) (Trust Fund)***
   Sale of Bid Documents : June 27 to July 26, 2005
   Pre-Bid Conference : July 22, 2005, 9:00 AM, BMC Library
   Bid Opening : August 5, 2005, 9:00 AM, BMC Library
   Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid Opening.
2. The **BICOL MEDICAL CENTER** now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the above stated projects. Delivery of the Goods required as stated in the Special Conditions of the Contract for each project.
   The description of an eligible bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the lowest calculated bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine his responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from **BICOL MEDICAL CENTER** and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from **8:00 AM** to **12:00 noon**; **1:00 PM** to **5:00 PM**, except weekends and Holidays.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents for each project may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of **TWO THOUSAND Philippine Pesos (PhP2,000.00)**. The method of payment will be in the form of Cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address, date and time stated above. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in any of the following forms, in the amount of at least equal to and not lower than a percentage of the ABC or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency:
   1. ***Cash, certified check, cashier's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit (1% of ABC)***
   2. ***Bank Guarantee (1.5% of ABC)***
   3. ***Surety Bond (2.5% of ABC)***
   Late bids shall not be accepted.
7. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representative/s who choose to attend at the address below.
8. The **BICOL MEDICAL CENTER** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Contact Address : BICOL MEDICAL CENTER
Concepcion Pequena, Naga City
Telephone Nos. (054) 473-2334, (054) 473-69-36
E-mail Address : slopez_bmc@yahoo.com
Fax No. (054) 473-69-36, (054) 473-2334, (054) 8112227
Website : http://www.doh.gov.ph/bmc/index.htm
Contact Person : RODOLFO C. URSUA, MD, FPCS, FPUA
Medical Specialist II and BAC Chairman

(Sgd.) **RUBEN R. PENAFIEL, MD, MHA**
Officer-in-charge
Bicol Medical Center

(PDI–June 29 & July 5, 2005)

Michell's Cakes & Pastries, established August 14, 1978 has since been at the forefront of the bakery industry in Bataan. For our expansion at Sta. Rosa, Laguna we are in need of highly motivated and dedicated professionals for the following positions:

PRODUCTION SUPERVISORS

- Must have complete knowledge of baking

BOOKKEEPER

- Must have accounting background

SALES LADIES
CASHIERS

- Preferably HRM graduates

Interested parties may submit their resumes at:

MICHELL'S CAKES & PASTRIES
Balibago Commercial Complex
Sta. Rosa, Laguna

WE ARE PUBLISHING SEVERAL MONTHLY TRADE MAGAZINES (OVER 40 YEARS OLD) BASED IN QUEZON CITY AND ARE IN NEED OF:

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT and ADVERTISING SOLICITOR

- With experience as editorial assistant or deskman
- Familiar with Adobe Pagemaker
- Excellent interpersonal skills and with above average communication skills, verbal and written
- Must know how to layout a magazine

Qualified aspirants may send in their application in writing with recent photo and bio-data to:

The Personnel Manager
P.O. Box 3454, Manila

or apply in person at:

626 Araneta Avenue, Quezon City

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offers a faster program to migrate to Canada as Permanent Resident in just 1 year. The GTC Director from Montreal will be in Manila on July, 2005 to discuss this and conduct meetings with prospective migrants "free of charge". To qualify, fill-out first our online assessment at:

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To reserve a seat, please contact our Philippine Office at: Tels. 725-9443 / 744-2203 / 0917 853 6907

Canadian Center for Immigration Services
GoTo Canada

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF CAGAYAN
MUNICIPALITY OF AMULUNG
OFFICE OF THE BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

(2nd publication/posting)

The Local Government of Amulung thru its BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE invites all interested and qualified suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the procurement and delivery of the item mentioned below:

Name of Project : ONE (1) FARM TRACTOR
Briefing Description:
One (1) FARM TRACTOR
Engine Diesel
Type Natural Aspirated
Size of Tire
14.9 x 24 front
184 x 34 rear
Trailing Harrow 20 x 24 HD
Displow 4x26 Heavy Duty
Drive: 4 wheel
Cylinder: 4
Horse Power: 90 HP
Spareparts: should be available in the locality
Performance: 1 Hr/ha 400 ha/season
AMTEC-TESTED
Spareparts: must be available within Region 02

Approved Budget for the Contract: P2,392,382.41

Prospective bidders should have experience in similar undertaking with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project item/project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/screening as well as the preliminary evaluation of bids shall use the non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria Post evaluation of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security Pre-Bid Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post Qualification and Award of contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of RA 9184 and its implementing rules and regulations.

The complete schedule of activities is listed as follow:

PR NO.	ACTIVITY	SCHEDULE
2005–	Posting and Advertisement	June 17-July 1, 2005 – 4:30 pm
	Sale of Eligibility Documents	July 2-July 8, 2005 – 4:30 pm
	Pre-Bid Conference	July 21, 2005
	Submission and Opening of Bids	August 1, 2005 – 1:00 pm

The Local Government of Amulung reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defects or formality therein and to accept bids considered responsive and most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **LUZMINDA L. MACASIO**
Chairman

NOTED:

ATTY. NICANOR C. DE LEON
Municipal Mayor

(PDI–June 22 & 29, 2005)

GLOBALSANTAFE

GlobalSantaFe has immediate employment opportunities in the following positions for various offshore drilling projects in Asia, Middle East & West Africa.

Night Toolpusher / Tourpusher – must hold a valid IWCF or equivalent well control certificate. Prefer at least 3 years experience with either Land, Jackup, Semi, or Drillship rigs.

Drillers / Assistant Drillers – must hold a valid IWCF or equivalent well control certificate. Prefer at least 3 years experience with either Land, Jackup, Semi, or Drillship rigs.

Crane Operators – must hold a valid crane operator certificate. Prefer at least 3 years experience with either Jackup, Semi, or Drillship rigs.

Derrickman / Pumpman – prefer at least 2 years experience as Derrickman or Pumpman with either Jackup, Semi, or Drillship rigs.

Interested applicants should submit typewritten resumé, 1 picture (2x2), copies of school records, employment certificates and licenses to:

Philippine Overseas Employment Administration
Manpower Registry Division, Window M
Ground Flr. Blas F. Ople Bldg. (formerly POEA Bldg.)
Ortigas Avenue corner EDSA, Mandaluyong City

Schedule of Interview by employer
is on the 3rd week of July 2005

NO FEES TO BE COLLECTED

GlobalSantaFe is a leading worldwide offshore oil and gas drilling contractor offering a full range of equipment and drilling management services. The company's diverse and technologically advanced fleet of 59 offshore rigs includes premium and heavy-duty, harsh-environment jackups, semisubmersibles, and dynamically positioned, ultra-deepwater drillships. The company also operates two semisubmersibles owned by others. In addition, GlobalSantaFe is the world's leading provider of turnkey drilling and drilling management services.

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
860 Quezon Ave., Quezon City, Metro Manila 1103
Tel. Nos. 372-5042 • 372-5061
Fax No. 372-5041

NOTICE OF VACANCY

One (1) Supervising Fishing Regulations Officer
SG - 22 (P213,012.00)/annum

Qualifications:

Bachelor of Science in Fisheries, Major in Marine, with Masteral in Marine Technology, Career Service (Professional) eligible, not more than 40 years old, with (3) three years of relevant experience, and 16 hours of relevant training.

Interested applicants may present their necessary credentials and report for interview through the Chief, Fisheries Regulatory and Quarantine Division at the above address.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. ANNALIZA A. VITUG**
Chief, Fisheries Regulatory and Quarantine Division

TransCo
National Transmission Corporation
South Luzon Operations and Maintenance

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The ***National Transmission Corporation-South Luzon Operations & Maintenance***, through its Bids and Awards Committe (BAC), invites suppliers/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project: *Supply of Labor & Supervision for Jobs Related to Janitorial Services, Landscape, Plantscape, of TransCo Offices, Installations & Assets (Packages I, II & III)*
Contract Code: *Trans-05-JAN-EBD-01*
Location: *South Luzon Areas*
Brief Description: *Furnishing of all labor and supervision for jobs related to janitorial services*
Approved Budget For the Contract: *PhP13,118,044.80 (Package I); PhP13,543,814.16 (Package II); PhP10,476,085.92 (Package III)*
Contract Duration: *Two (2) years*
Delivery Period: *Upon receipt of Notice to Proceed*

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project completed within the last two (2) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding, and have key personnel and equipment (owned, leased or under purchase) available for the prosecution of the project. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the bidder with the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The complete and tentative schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	Starts June 21, 2005
2. Pre-bid Conference	July 21, 2005, 1:30 P.M.
3. Opening of Bids	August 04, 2005, 9:00 A.M.
4. Bid Evaluation	August 04, 2005
5. Post-qualification	To be announced on a later date
6. Notice of Award	To be announced on a later date

Bid Documents will be available at the Regional Contracts Management Office (RCMO), National Transmission Corporation-SLOM San Vicente Biñan, Laguna, Tel. Nos. 981-4539, 981-4576-78 local 4053, 4094 to all eligible bidders upon presentation of Letter of Intent, DTI or SEC Registration and upon payment of a non-refundable amount of ***P1,000.00*** (per package) to the ***National Transmission Corporation-SLOM*** Cashier.

The ***National Transmission Corporation-SLOM*** assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) **REYNALDO B. VERGARA**
BAC Chairman

(PDI–June 29, 2005)

JOB Market
VISIT US AT
www.jobmarketonline.com

From the nation's No. 1 Newspaper:

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

THE HERITAGE PARK
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845-2334 to 38; 845-2440

OBITUARIES

RATE
P245 per column centimeter
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Monday to Sunday
12:00 noon
Day before publication

The Management and Staff of
BRITTANY CORPORATION
Deeply condoles with the family of

DOÑA ESTELA MARFORI POSADAS

who peacefully joined our Lord on June 25, 2005

Her children **Juan Posadas III** (†) and his family, **Maria Elena Posadas** and her family, relatives and friends, request your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal National Shrine, Sucat, Muntinlupa.

Interment will be on Sunday, July 3, 2005 at the North Cemetery after the celebration of the 10:30 a.m. Holy Mass at the Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal National Shrine, Sucat, Muntinlupa.

"For I know that my Redeemer liveth, and in the last day I shall rise out of the earth... and I shall see my God... this my hope is laid up in my bossom." – Job

---

JESUS MÍO EN TI CONFÍO!

Our most beloved

Rosario Banzon de Gala

(1908 – 2005)

Widow of the late Feliciano V. de Gala

Peacefully passed on to eternal life to join her Creator on Monday, June 27, 2005 at 6:12 PM.

Her bereaved children, **Feliciano Jr.**, **Lourdes**, **Antonio**, **Alicia**, **Ma. Loretta**, and **Minabelle**, children-in-law, **Antonio N. Sian**, **Josefina C. Garcia**, **Genaro R. Estrada**, **Mario V. Tiaoqui** and **Serafin B. Linda**, grandchildren, great grandchildren, sisters-in-law and all her relatives request the pious readers to pray for the repose of her soul.

Her cremated remains will be at the Capilla del Señor, Sanctuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City.

Interment will be at the San Antonio crypt, on Thursday, the 30th of June after the 10:00 AM mass.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the CARISSA Lymphoma Foundation will be greatly appreciated.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life." —John 3:16

Our Beloved

ATTY. FRANCISCA ESTOCAPIO DAMIAN

who peacefully joined his Creator on February 17, 2004 at the age of 75.

His husband, **Atty. Rey** and nephews and nieces wish to express their heartfelt gratitude and sincerest appreciation to all those who comforted and condoled with them in their time of berenvement.

"...absent from the body to be present with the Lord."
— 2 Corinthians 5:8

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RENATO "POCHE" D.C. PRUDENCIO

of Bocaue, Bulacan

*Peacefully joined his Creator, his wife **Milagros** and his son **Jose Regie** on June 25, 2005 at the age of 55.*

His Children
MA. MICHAELA and **FERDINAND GARCIA**
JESUSA MARJORIE

Granddaughter
MILAGROS KATRINA

and present Wife
ROSAFE

Relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

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A beloved husband, father, brother, uncle, cousin, friend, mentor, and a public servant became one with his Lord on 27 June 2005 at the age of 64.

His bereaved family: wife **EDITH**; children: **GEEGEE**, **DR. VIVIETTE** & **MAYOR MAC JOHN**; sisters & brothers-in-law: **DR. LITA**, **POLEN**, **CONGW. LINA**, **TABBY**, **PETE** & **JOEY**; and other relatives and friends request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body currently lies in state at Nacional Memorial Homes, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City from June 27 - June 29; he will be transferred to and will lie in state at Rolling Hills Chapel, Banilad, Cebu City on June 30 - July 3, 2005.

Interment will be on Sunday, 3 July 2005 at Cebu Memorial Park, Cebu City.

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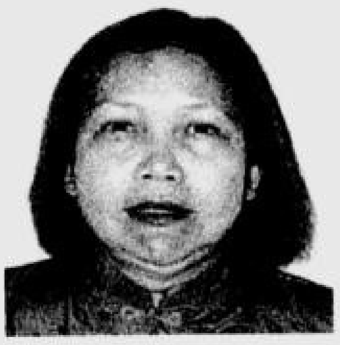

MARIA CRISTINA O. DE LEON
(a.k.a. MARICRIS DE LEON, MIKE DE LEON)

This is to inform the public that **MARIA CRISTINA O. DE LEON** of Unit A-2 K-Ville Townhomes, Renowned Lane, San Ville, Project 6, Quezon City, whose picture appears above, is no longer connected with **PIONEER LIFE INC.**, since June 23, 2005.

Transactions undertaken by **Ms. de Leon** in behalf of **Pioneer Life Inc.** after said date will not be honored by the company.

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(PDI—June 29, 2005)

NFA intensifies monitoring of rice supply and prices

NATIONAL FOOD Authority Administrator Gregorio Y. Tan, Jr. has instructed field officials of the NFA to intensify price and supply monitoring of government rice being sold in accredited outlets nationwide. Tan said monitoring teams of the food agency are being deployed in both minor and major markets nationwide to conduct regular inspections of the operations of NFA-licensed and accredited outlets. Rice retailers who wish to be accredited by the NFA undergo a one-day seminar-workshop on the Philippine Grains Standardization Program (PGSP) where they are apprised on the rules and regulations on rice retailing business, particularly in pricing. Tan assured that with NFA's regular monitoring activities, good quality but low-priced NFA rice will be available for sale to the public at all times. He also assured the people that the NFA will even intensify its rice distribution during the lean months of July to September. NFA rice at P16 and P18 per kilogram are being sold in the Bigasan ni Gloria sa Palengke (BGP), Tindahan ni Gloria sa Barangay (TGB), Targeted Rice Distribution Program (TRDP) and other accredited rice outlets. For more information on NFA programs, please send inquiries via text NFA through mobile number 0917-6210927. For information on programs of the Department of Agriculture, please visit the DA's official website at www.da.gov.ph.

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ECONOMIC MANAGERS' VIEW

Investors still confident in RP

By Michelle V. Remo

THE PHILIPPINES still has the confidence of the international capital market despite the biggest political crisis facing the Arroyo administration.

National Treasurer Omar Cruz, who had talks with foreign creditors, said investors were still very much willing to entertain any plans of the government to tap the international market for its remaining borrowing requirements for the year.

"I am told that the Philippines can access the market anytime. The global bond market is not affected by this disturbance," Cruz said in a briefing yesterday.

The national government still needs to borrow $800 million from commercial sources abroad to complete the $3.1-billion foreign borrowing requirement for the year.

It already floated ROP (Republic of the Philippines) bonds twice this year.

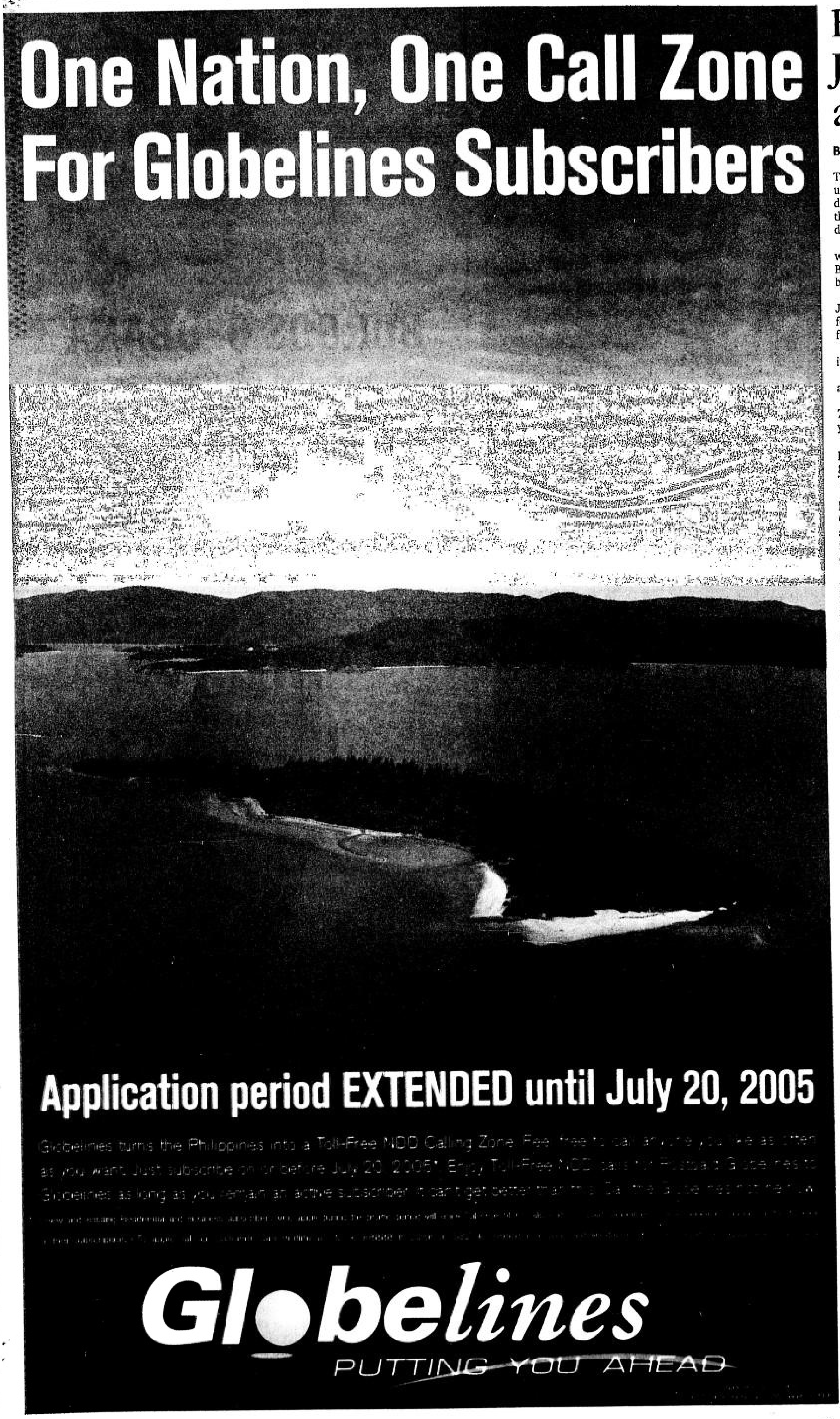
The government's economic team was supposed to go on an international road show this month to brief European and American investors on the positive developments in the Philippines' fiscal front.

The road show, however, was deferred indefinitely in the wake of the controversies hounding the Arroyo administration, including allegations that the President cheated on the elections and that her family received "jueteng" payola.

Analysts said political jitters were erasing gains on the economic front, but Cruz said the political crisis was not expected to significantly harm the country's capability to access the market and to maintain a stable borrowing cost.

Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima, meanwhile, called on public support for the administration's economic and fiscal reform efforts.

"We as a nation must seize this opportunity to move our country forward. We must have the courage to continue to implement the reforms that are necessary to put our economy on track," he said in a statement.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BSP sees June inflation at 7.9-8.4%

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PRICES of basic commodities likely went up by 7.9-8.4 percent in June from a year ago due to higher oil prices and transport fares, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said yesterday.

The country's actual inflation rate in May was steady at 8.5 percent, which means the BSP expects the increase in June to be not as big.

BSP Officer-in-Charge Amando Tetangco Jr. told reporters that BSP's inflation forecast for the month was the same as its projection for May.

"It's still oil prices and transport fares driving up inflation," Tetangco said.

Global crude oil prices as of yesterday were already trading above $60 a barrel.

The BSP expects inflation to average at 7.9 percent this year, and 7.5 percent next year.

When asked about the Monetary Board's policy stance on Thursday's policy rate setting given continuing pressures on inflation, Tetangco refused to comment.

On the impact of transport and wage hikes, he said: "Credit demand is still moderate. Commercial bank lending is growing by slightly over 5 percent year on year. That's an indication that there's still no clear pressure on demand."

The BSP uses an inflation-targeting approach to inflation, which means that interest rate hikes will be prompted largely by the need to curb consumer spending sprees.

The BSP says that the volatility in oil prices will continue to dictate the pace of inflation.

Cebu Pacific to charge more for fuel

By Clarissa S. Batino

CEBU Air Pacific, the country's second-largest carrier, has received the go-ahead from the Civil Aeronautics Board to charge passengers flying overseas a fuel surcharge of $11, up from $8.

The airline said it needed the additional surcharge to cover the unabated increase in the prices of crude oil, which have already shot up to $61 a barrel.

Fuel comprises 40 percent of airlines' operating costs.

Thus, the CAB gave Cebu Pacific a three-month provisional authority to raise overseas fares by $3 for every one-way trip.

Cebu Pacific flies to Hong Kong, South Korea, and parts of China. Starting October, it will fly to Osaka in Japan.

Worsening matters, according to Fred Villarin, head of the CAB's hearing division, is the declining value of the peso.

Since jet fuel is imported, the cost of fuel increases every time the peso depreciates.

"We have a case of skyrocketing jet fuel prices as well as [deteriorating] exchange rates," said Villarin.

The aviation agency allowed Philippine Airlines last month to start collecting an additional $8 fuel surcharge on one-way trips to the United States, Canada and Australia, and an additional $3 on one-way flights to the Middle East and other destinations.

PAL, Cebu Pacific and Air Philippines were also permitted last month to increase the fuel surcharge on local trips.

The flag carrier now collects a fuel surcharge of $22 on trips to the US, Canada and Australia; $16 on Middle East and $14 on all other foreign routes.

"The fuel surcharges being imposed by the carriers are significantly lower than the actual cost of fuel increase per passenger," said CAB executive director Tomas Mañalac in an earlier interview.

This was because the airlines needed to remain competitive in both the domestic and international markets.

E-mail: pr_motoring@inquirer.com.ph

MOTORING

Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

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Int'l offer for restoration pours in but fails to follow through

SEN. Quintin Paredes' Chrysler Imperial

EMMY ARCILLA

By Tessa R. Salazar

(Second of three parts)

VINTAGE Car Club of the Philippines president Ding Jose said one of the club's dream projects is to restore cars with Philippine historical significance. He said that MacArthur's and Quezon's parade cars had been displayed in car shows as early as 1970s and 1980s.

VCCP celebrated its 31st anniversary last Sunday.

Ron Reidenbach, one of the VCCP founders, said he has received calls from a professional restorer in the United States who owns a car museum and would like to make an earnest restoration of the MacArthur parade car—a 1937 16-cylinder limousine (other car enthusiasts refer to it as a 1936 Cadillac Series 90 V16 custom town car)—and Quezon's Chrysler Airflow parade car in Quezon City.

"They provide high-quality restoration works because they have a museum, and in return (for the restoration works) they would keep the two cars for a year and bring them to different museums in the States," Reidenbach said.

Reidenbach is also a director of the Automobile Association Philippines, and an active member of the Manila Sports Car Club. AAP, he said, is also supportive of the objectives of the VCCP.

"Serious collectors know the value of these cars," Reidenbach stressed.

According to Reidenbach, the plans didn't push through because the National Historical Institute was hesitant that the cars would not be returned to the Philippines.

Reidenbach discovered that in Corregidor, where the two cars were once kept, the salt-laden sea breeze and alleged vandals damaged the cars. "I hope these cars will find a happy home in Quezon City," he said.

Looking for serious restorers

Reidenbach disclosed he also once received a call from the American Chamber of Commerce. The American Chamber of Commerce was also reportedly interested in looking for serious restorers for the MacArthur's parade car.

"They recognize the historical significance of the car. It's also an interesting car because it's a 16-cylinder," Reidenbach said.

He added that the two parade cars have their intrinsic value, as well. "Very few of these types of cars were made."

Reidenbach lauded what broadcaster Cito Beltran was doing with the presidential cars. He called him one of the "very serious car collectors" in the country.

Beltran, meanwhile, is hopeful that two years from now the restoration works on cars would be finished just in time for the next staging of the Manila Motor Show.

The only convertible

Beltran's 1.2-hectare farm is the "retirement" home of many historically significant cars. Here rests an official parade car of Malacañang circa early '40s—a 1941 Cadillac—used by Presidents Quezon, Osmeña, Roxas and Quirino.

"This is a rare one because it's the only convertible Cadillac in the Philippines. There might be another one in the country, but that could be the hard top version," said Beltran.

He further narrated: "We got it out of Vigan. During the war this was buried. You would know it was so because the chassis had a lot of mud inside." Beltran said he was in a Baguio restaurant sometime in 2003 when someone told him about the Cadillac in Vigan.

It took him several months to trace the location of the vehicle and check its historical claim to fame. Afterward, Cito quipped, "It became a poor man's process of acquiring that car—prayer, bargaining, haggling, having to sell other cars to acquire that car."

Erap's limo

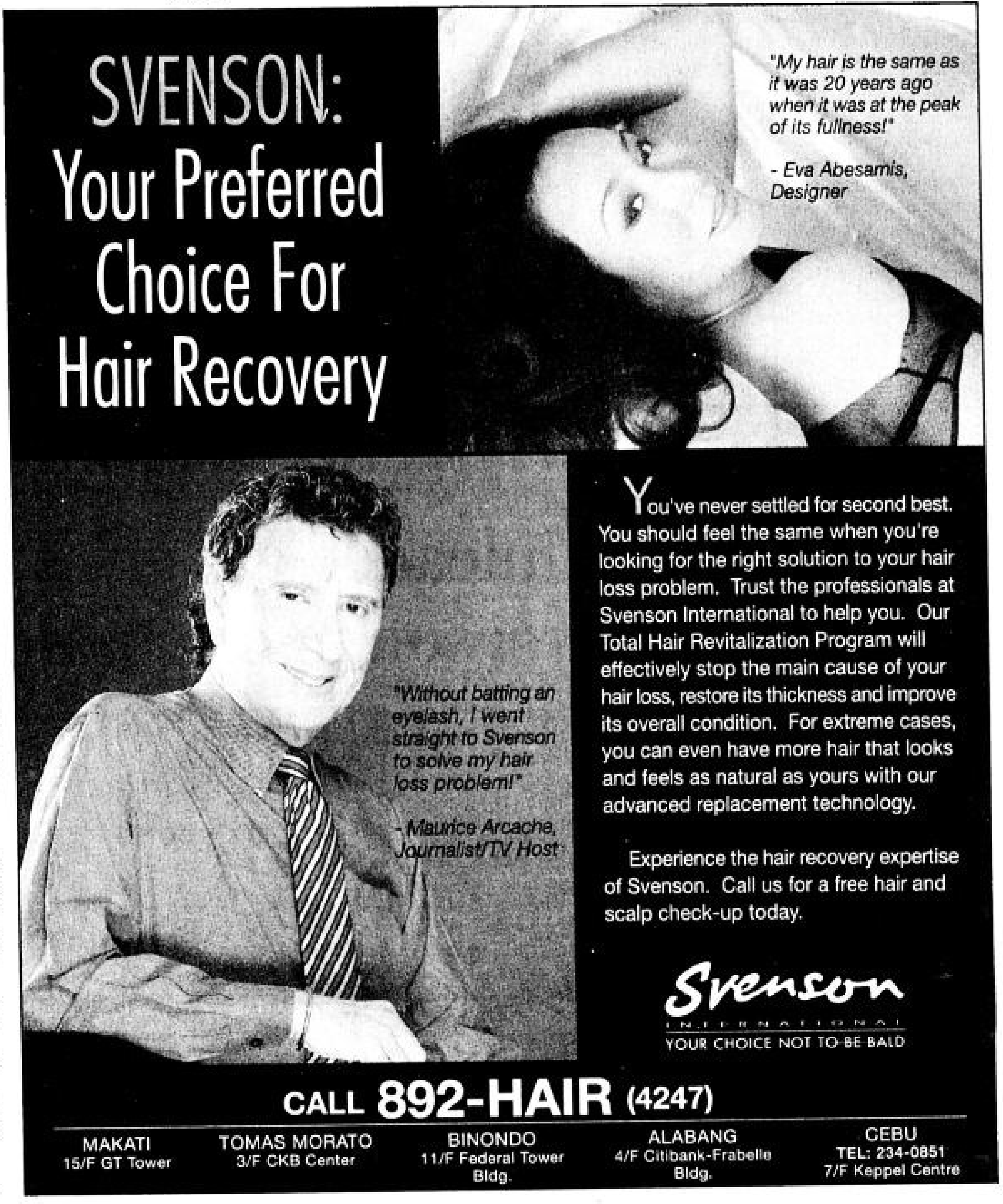
Ousted president Joseph Estrada once boasted about his 1951 Fleetwood Cadillac during one of Beltran's visits as his Bible teacher. Beltran said the car was Erap's personal Cadillac, and the president always assumed it was just sitting idle in his garage.

When Beltran broke the news that it had already been sold by one of the president's relatives, he "blew a fuse."

"He called the relative and demanded that he look for it," Beltran chuckled.

The relative eventually found the car in Pampanga, but by then it was already in a less desirable state.

INT'L/B2-2



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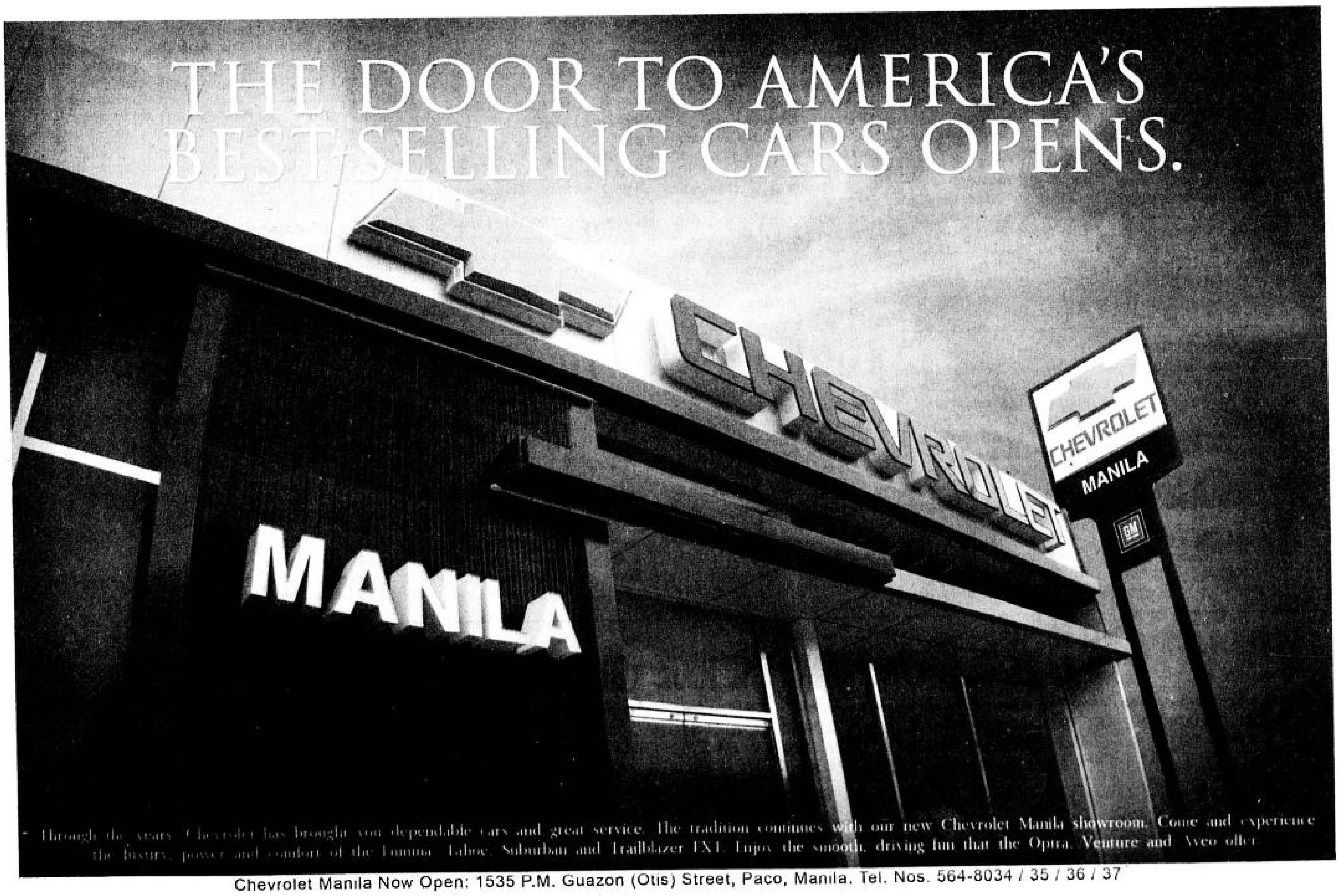

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Reaping the fruit of the Suzuki-Kawasaki alliance

By Charles E. Buban

WHILE BOTH of these Suzuki and Kawasaki motorbikes share similar components, each brand still retain their own respective brand identity.

A FEW years back—2001, to be exact—Kawasaki Heavy Industries and Suzuki Motor Corp. signed what they called a "strategic business agreement."

Under the alliance, Suzuki will sell original equipment manufacturing (OEM) products to Kawasaki, which will sell that product as Kawasaki models through the Kawasaki dealer network. Also certain Kawasaki OEM models will be sold by Suzuki dealers under the Suzuki brand.

The decision was arrived at in the face of globalization and intensifying industry competition and the two companies believe the alliance would improve their global competitiveness and profitability.

"It's been done many times in the automotive industry, but this happens to be the first one in the motorcycle industry," said Suzuki Philippines marketing manager Ping Castro.

Both companies were quick to clarify that the agreement is an alliance and not a merger, adding that the relationship is more of a cooperation on several areas: procurement of components for production, manufacture of spare parts common to both, helping fill out respective brand's model lines, and future alliance that could involve the possibility of a joint development.

Combined efforts

In the years that followed, Suzuki and Kawasaki did combine some development efforts to take advantage of inefficiencies that otherwise would be absorbed independently.

It should be noted that despite the alliance, the two companies have maintained total separation and independence, especially in the areas of sales, marketing and dealer distribution.

Castro related that both companies now enjoy stronger buying power that enable them to secure the highest-quality parts at the most competitive prices.

"For our respective dealers, the result is more product updates and features than ever before," said Castro.

For few more years

It took few more years before the effect of the agreement was felt here, when Suzuki Philippines and Kawasaki Motors Philippines Corp. announced their alliance in the assembly, marketing and distribution of two specific models, with an agreement signed November 2003 and March 2004.

The alliance involves a sharing in technology and design: models GS175 and GS175E are manufactured and assembled by Kawasaki, and are sold and distributed by Suzuki in the Philippines under Suzuki model names.

Likewise, model BC125A is manufactured and assembled by Suzuki and is marketed and distributed by Kawasaki in the Philippines under a Kawasaki model name.

The GS175, GS175E and BC125A are all aimed at the passenger and tricycle market.

Here in the Philippines, the alliance will be limited to and applicable only to the above-mentioned models.

Wider range of products

"This cooperation will help provide both brands with a wider range of product offerings while allowing each company to individually broaden its consumer base," said Castro.

He said the immediate impact of the alliance here in the Philippines is that both brands will now be able to provide the most competitive and desired products in the industry and enable both motorcycle manufacturers to respond more effectively to the evolving needs of their customers.

"The long-term implication of the alliance is even more crucial," said Castro. "Of course there will be more brand and market share growth for both. And while keeping strong our respective brand identities, the alliance would give both companies more competitive edge in the local market."

Petron's Xtra Unleaded gas gives extra miles: a reason to celebrate

HOW far can you go with one full tank of gasoline? For oil refiner and marketer Petron Corp., it's the whole stretch of Luzon covering a distance of more than a thousand kilometers.

That's using the oil firm's Xtra Unleaded gasoline under normal driving conditions through highways, rough terrain, intense summer heat and road detours.

Fuel economy run

During an endurance fuel economy run held from March 31 to April 1, Petron commissioned master race driver Pocholo Ramirez and his son Louis to each run a 1.3-liter manual transmission car from Pagudpud, Ilocos Norte, down to Casiguran, Sorsogon.

The first leg of the two-day run started at the Petron station in Bangul-Ilocos. The race cars were filled with Petron Xtra Unleaded. Lids were signed and sealed by the participants and the officials of the Automobile Association Philippines (AAP) and the Car Awards Group Inc. (Cagi) who both witnessed and certified the results of the event.

The drivers passed through the northern half of Luzon across the provinces of Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, La Union, Pangasinan and Tarlac, and stopped only for a brief break at San Fernando, Pampanga.

According to Petron officials, the cars traveled almost nonstop for nine hours, except for brief bathroom breaks. For the first half of the journey, the cars covered 494 kilometers.

The second leg drove the team across the North Luzon Expressway in Metro Manila, then on to the South Superhighway before going on to Batangas, Laguna, Quezon, Camarines Sur and Albay. The cars finished off in Sorsogon province where the full tank of gasoline was fully consumed.

Economical driving

The fuel economy run, sponsored by Petron, seeks to educate the motoring public about the benefits of economical driving with a fuel-efficient gasoline.

Petron officials said the second and last leg of the eco-challenge tested not only the patience of the drivers but also proved the fuel economy features of Petron's Xtra Unleaded gasoline.

The unit driven by the younger Ramirez stopped at the town of Tabontabon in Daraga, Albay, after having covered 1,048.8 km. The father's car reached Casiguran, Sorsogon, having covered 1,113.9 km.

This means an impressive fuel consumption of 24.9 km per liter for Louis and a more remarkable 26.52 km per liter for Pocholo. The car had a maximum capacity of 42 liters.

Gas-saving boosters

During the celebration of Petron Xtra Unleaded gasoline last June 2, Petron president Khalid Al-Faddagh said Xtra Unleaded contains gas-saving boosters that promote more efficient combustion resulting in lower fuel consumption.

PETRON president Khalid Al-Faddagh says their product claim for extra miles with Petron Xtra Unleaded gasoline is "more than a promise. Our claims are backed up by research and test drives, certified by independent agencies, that with Xtra Unleaded one travels extra miles—as far as (1,114 km) with just one full tank."

"This is proven power for extra miles. What's more, it is environment-friendly, being the only locally refined gasoline that complies with the stringent Euro IV emission standards," he pointed out.

He also said the new Xtra Unleaded is processed using the company's new naphtha isomerization unit at its refinery in Limay, Bataan. It is the first and only one in the Philippines.

Al-Faddagh said the Xtra Unleaded gasoline shows how good investments translate into good products both in terms of performance and cost-effectiveness. "The Xtra Unleaded gas joins our two other premium unleaded brands—Blaze and XCS Plus. We hope that our customers will be satisfied with our latest product offering."

Entertainment show

After the economy-run, participants and hundreds of guests celebrated the night with a grand entertainment show featuring pop sensation Kyla, Area I who sang Beatles favorites and Side A who wooed the audience with their top OPM songs. The private concert also featured Rivermaya who pepped up the night with their rock selections.

Held at the Rockwell Tent, the event was attended by media personalities, Petron dealers, clients and friends who shared the dance floor with Al-Faddagh. Free flowing drinks, dance production numbers with aerial acrobatic dances thrilled crowds.

Petron endorser Epi Quizon hosted the night's show, where all guests got to win prizes like free fuel, hi-tech gadgets, Petron mementos and Ipod Shuffle MP3 players, gearing up guests for their own Xtra Unleaded full-tank gas challenge.

Ford Escape redefines 'No Boundaries' lifestyle

YOUNG, talented and up and coming personalities are set to experience "The Great Outdoor Escape" adventure and experience the "No Boundaries" lifestyle with the Ford Escape.

With P30,000 pocket money, a full tank and the whole weekend, talents Jinno Rufino, Rovilson Fernandez and Monica Llamas will take the Ford Escape on a ride and test the vehicle's capabilities in scenic Subic, Zambales and Ilocos Norte.

The Ford Escape has a spacious interior and a good cargo capacity loaded with functional and convenient features, which combines sports and utility to superb effect—truly the perfect vehicle for the participants of this challenge.

Mechanics of the game are simple: Jinno, Rovilson and Monica must complete a journey of 1,000 kilometers and test the capabilities of the vehicle through outdoor, tough, rough or paved roads. The exciting activity not only ends there but they also have to redefine the "No Boundaries" lifestyle and test their ability to overcome their "fear factor."

Excellent performance

The Ford Escape is also big on capability and comfort. It is a complete 100 percent SUV vehicle offering a smooth, pleasant-sounding ride with low noise and vibration, which the participants will truly enjoy despite their long drive in Ilocos Norte. And, whether you're driving or occupying the passenger or back seat, you can experience the safety and convenience of the superior performance of the Ford Escape due to its four-speed automatic transmission that provides even smoother shifting performance.

For sure the participants won't go over their budgets with the vehicle's fuel economy feature, and won't worry about its maintenance because of the Ford Escape's excellent performance on wet, slippery roads and versatility for city and highway driving.

The Ford Escape is America's best-selling small size SUV and is manufactured at the Ford plant in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, for export to Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia.

The Great Outdoor Escape features model Jinno Rufino, host of "SportsTV," "SportsReport" and "Hotwire" on Studio23; performing artist and model Monica Llamas; and Rovilson Fernandez, host, producer, scriptwriter of "HotWire" on Studio 23.

Learn more about their adventures on The Great Outdoor Escape... to be continued.

CROWD FAVORITE

One of the crowd favorites in the recently concluded Motorshow 2005 is this sleek-looking Chevy Optra owned by Dennis Basilio. Redesigned, reequipped and reloaded by StarBrightBodyKits, this Optra features carbon hood, Prism high intensity discharge lamps and JBL car audio system. For details on how to make your car similarly fabulous log on to www.optionsunlimited.com.ph or visit the showroom located at 47D G. Araneta, Quezon City.

Int'l offer for restoration . . .

From page B2-1

After the car was repaired and restored, Beltran recalled Erap telling him: *"Cito sa iyo na lang. Buti pa sa iyo mahal mo yung kotse.* (Cito this car is yours. You show concern for it.)"

Parked beside Erap's limo at the farm is the Marcos wedding car.

Stories have it that a 1951 Chrysler Imperial Limousine was about to be delivered in the Philippines. Gen. Douglas McArthur, who was in Asia at the time, reportedly wanted the same car.

Chrysler reportedly apologized to MacArthur and said a certain lady in Manila ordered before he did. And the manufacturer had to meet her order before his. That order happened to come from Michelle Syquia of the Syquia clan of jewelers.

"It was the Syquias who employed former President Ferdinand Marcos as a lawyer. One day he borrowed the car for a wedding. And this was brought all the way to Baguio."

The 1956 Chrysler Imperial of former Sen. Quintin Paredes was given to Beltran by Danding Cojuangco after its body repairs were done.

"I was supposed to buy it, when Danding Cojuangco learned about the car. He decided to buy it. When we met a few months later and I tried to persuade him to sell it to me, he gave it to me and joked, 'You just waited for me to repair it.'" *With a report from Chona Galang, PDI Research*

E-mail the author at tsalazar@inquirer.com.ph

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All that Jazz: a 10,000-km review

(Last of two parts)

CATCH MY DRIFT

Andre Palma

MAYBE I was just asking too much of the Jazz from the start? There is a definite upside in the car's peso pinching fuel efficiency, but who can blame owners from wanting more, in the form of G force inducing acceleration? We can dream of the ideal, can we not? In these cash-strapped times, I am more than happy to forgo one for the other; as I confess that it does not matter that I drive a car that accelerates in a painfully patient manner as long as I don't have to use more of my dwindling paycheck to pay for fuel.

The performance for fuel-efficiency tradeoff can be called a fair (and practical) deal but there are other areas of the Jazz's performance that are more reasonably indicated as wanting.

Volume of freight

With the ability to fold the rear seating flush to the floor pan, this car scores heavyweight marks in the volume of freight it can swallow. Station wagons and small SUVs beware, this petite four-door hatch can compete toe to toe for your volume of passengers and cargo. Just be reasonable and choose either; as the Jazz can't haul large volumes of both at the same time.

Objects as large as two full suspension downhill bicycles (with only the front wheels off) can fit in the back of the Jazz when the rear seats are folded. A six-foot Christmas tree, box included, has also been brought home by this car.

Imagine the number of cases of bottled beer this car can carry; I say eight is a conservative number with 12 probably pushing it a little bit. All I am trying to say is this: in meeting the cargo needs of the small forward thinking, urban Filipino family, this car has no rival.

By endowing the vehicle with such a capacity for cargo, I expected the manufacturer would have equipped the Jazz with a suspension system that was more than equal to the task. In fairness, I imagine the car's suspension system would be perfect in the immaculate Metro Tokyo road system. Metro Manila, on the other hand, produces driving conditions that can take a real toll on motor vehicles. The Jazz is definitely worse for wear in our city streets.

Eye openers

Handling and suspension were eye openers at the start. My initial evaluation of the car was that it had a substantially stiff chassis and decent suspension that allowed it to corner in a vary stable manner. It handled beautifully, literally getting nods of approval from old, cynical but experienced drivers. The weak link was most definitely the stock rubber, as the small passenger rated 14-inch tires were hard pressed to provide either comfort and traction.

In an effort to improve the ride quality and performance of the car, the factory supplied 14-inch wheels were maintained and mated to the

ALL/B2-4

CEASED COUNTERFEIT 555 AUTOPARTS. Sankei Industry Company Ltd. Japan with BSB Junrose Auto Parts Corporation, manufacturer and exclusive Philippine distributor of genuine 555 Steering and Suspension Parts have stepped up its anti-counterfeit drive against the proliferation of fake 555 in the market, thru a series of raids conducted with law enforcement authorities against counterfeiting companies, dealers and entities who buy and distribute counterfeit 555 autoparts in the market. Shown above are ceased fake 555 autoparts being burned as representatives of **Sankei** and **BSB Junrose** look on.

Steering and suspension parts are critical components in the performance and safety of a vehicle. Since these parts are subjected to heavy loads and impacts during driving, it is important that these components are of the correct specifications in terms of the material used and dimensions. Counterfeit parts do not only deceive buyers in these aspects, but also expose motorists and the general public to accidents due to poor quality fake parts.

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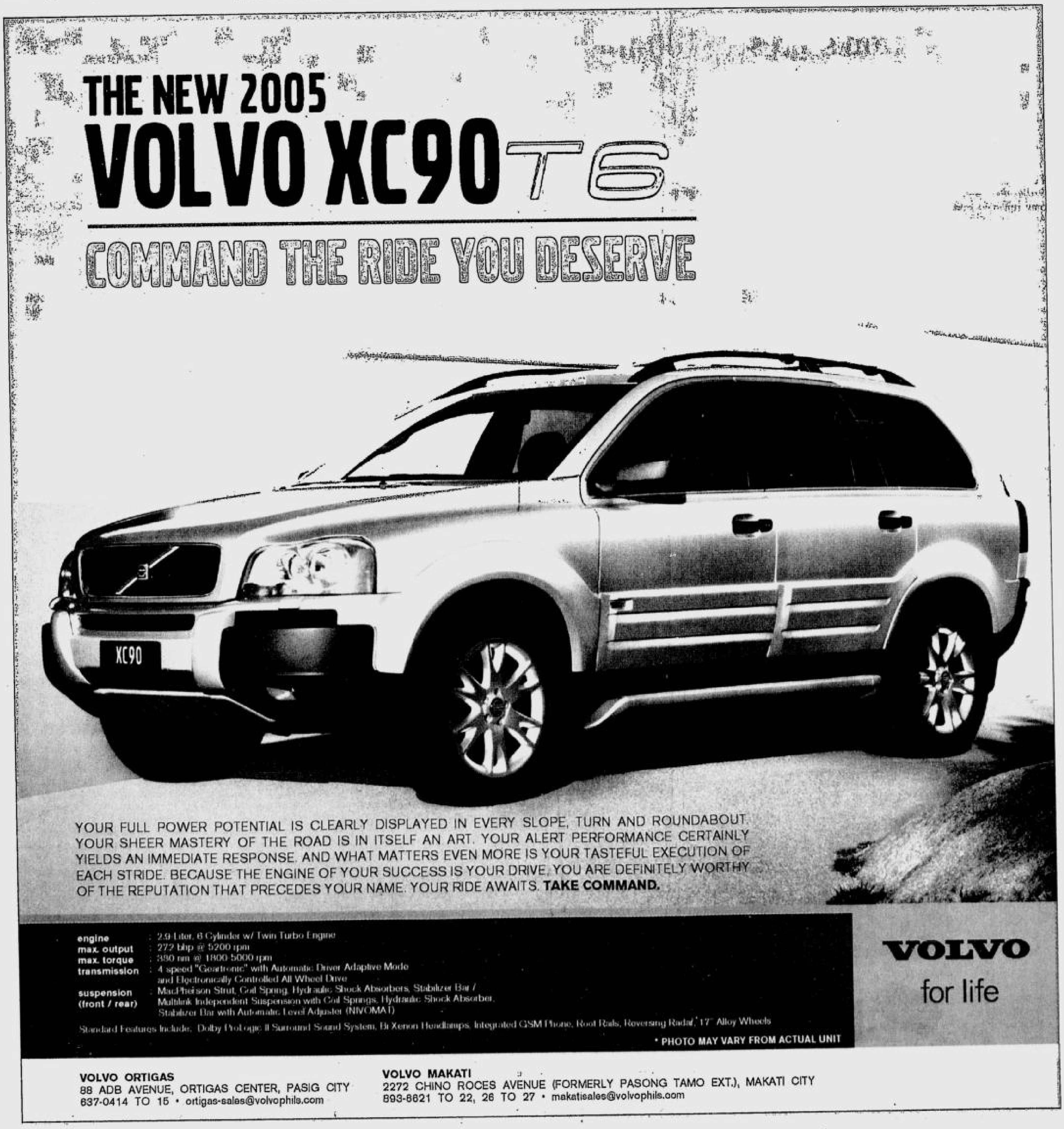

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Honda's 'mea culpa'

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

THREE weeks ago, Honda Cars Philippines Inc. (HCPI) announced the recall of 12,480 Civic units sold from 2001 to 2004 for the replacement of locally manufactured metal bands that hold the fuel tank in place.

HCPI said the metal bands were a few millimeters longer than specified, causing them to slacken and, with the continuous vibration, eventually snap, thereby allowing the fuel tank to detach. The first case of metal band failure was reported in February 2004 and there have been 10 cases to date, but no injuries were reported as a result. The voluntary recall program will cost HCPI P8 million and was generally lauded as proof of Honda's genuine concern for the safety of its customers.

Questions

However, Honda's mea culpa does raise questions about the capability of local auto parts manufacturers to follow specs and HCPI's diligence in inspecting locally manufactured parts before installing them. Given Honda's worldwide reputation for consistent high quality, HCPI's recall program comes as somewhat of a shock.

Only last week, according to the JD Power and Associates/Automobile Magazine 2005 France Customer Satisfaction Index study, Honda leads the industry as the most satisfying brand to own in a ranking of nameplates based on overall customer satisfaction. Honda had an index score of 819 based on a 1,000-point scale, performing particularly well in the quality/reliability and service satisfaction measures. BMW followed closely with an index score of 816 while Toyota vehicles topped the rankings in three out of six individual award categories.

HCPI's voluntary safety recall campaign revives the debate whether cars imported CBU (completely built up) are better than those assembled locally from CKD (completely knocked down) kits. This debate has assumed a new dimension because some car models sold here are CBUs imported not from the manufacturers' home countries such as Japan or the United States, but from their regional production bases in Thailand and China.

Thai, Chinese CBUs

The Toyota Hilux and Fortuner, for example, are CBUs from Thailand, ditto the Isuzu Alterra. One thousand Chevrolet Venture minivans made in China are imported here by General Motors every year while the Chevrolet Optra is a CBU from Thailand. The Mitsubishi Lancer is also a CBU from Thailand although the Pajero and Montero Sport are CBUs from Japan.

Now, according to a recent New York Times article, Honda has joined the outsourcing bandwagon by manufacturing the Jazz in China exclusively for export to Europe where made-in-China and made-in-Japan Jazzes will be sold interchangeably. This reflects favorably on the improvement in the quality of cars being produced in China, although the president of Honda's China production subsidiary conceded in a brief interview that the quality of cars assembled in China is slightly worse than identical models made in Japan. However, he noted that the difference was very small and narrowing.

Given the first recall ever made by Honda here, are we ready to assume the same thing—that the quality of cars assembled in the Philippines is "slightly worse than identical models made in Japan" but "the difference is very small and narrowing"?

Not the first

Honda, by the way, is not the first car manufacturer to issue a recall notice here. In 2003, Nissan Motor Philippines recalled 2,000 units of the Nissan Sentra to replace defective parts. Columbia Autocar Corp. recalled 328 units of the Kia Rio for the replacement of its fuel distributor assembly.

In June 2004, Mitsubishi Motors Philippines Corp. (MMPC) recalled 270 units of the 1996 Lancer for a defect in the horn pad that could cause the horn not to sound when pressed. At the same time, MMPC emphasized that Pajeros sold here in 1997-98 were not included in the worldwide recall issued by Mitsubishi Motors Japan since only diesel '97-'98 models were sold here while the recall covered the gasoline models. In October 2004, Toyota Motor Philippines Corp. (TMPC) recalled 363 units of Toyota Echo and Verso models sold here from March to June 2000 for rectification of the brake master cylinder.

Defects

These local recalls are mere drops in the bucket when compared to recalls issued worldwide or in other countries for defects ranging from faulty engine sensors, brakes, transmission systems, batteries, battery cables, alternators, accelerator cables, ignition systems, turn signals and tail lights to sticking gas pedals. In November 2003, Nissan Motor Co. recalled 2.5 million cars worldwide. In March 2004, Porsche AG recalled 22,000 Cayenne SUVs. In November 2004, GM recalled nearly 1.5 million vehicles sold in North America. (GM had recalled over 7.5 million vehicles in the first four months of 2004.)

In December 2004, DaimlerChrysler recalled 600,000 Dodge Durango and Dodge Dakota 4x4 pickup trucks from the 2000-2005 model years. Separately, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration recalled more than 98,000 Chrysler cars and SUVs including the 2004 Dodge Durango. At the same time, Ford Motor Co. recalled about 474,000 Escape and Mazda Tribute 3.0-liter SUVs from the 2002-2004 model years. Last April, DaimlerChrysler recalled 1.3 million Mercedes-Benz E-class, SL and CLS-class models worldwide built from January 2002 to January 2005 while Mitsubishi Motors issued its latest recall of 274,635 cars in Japan.

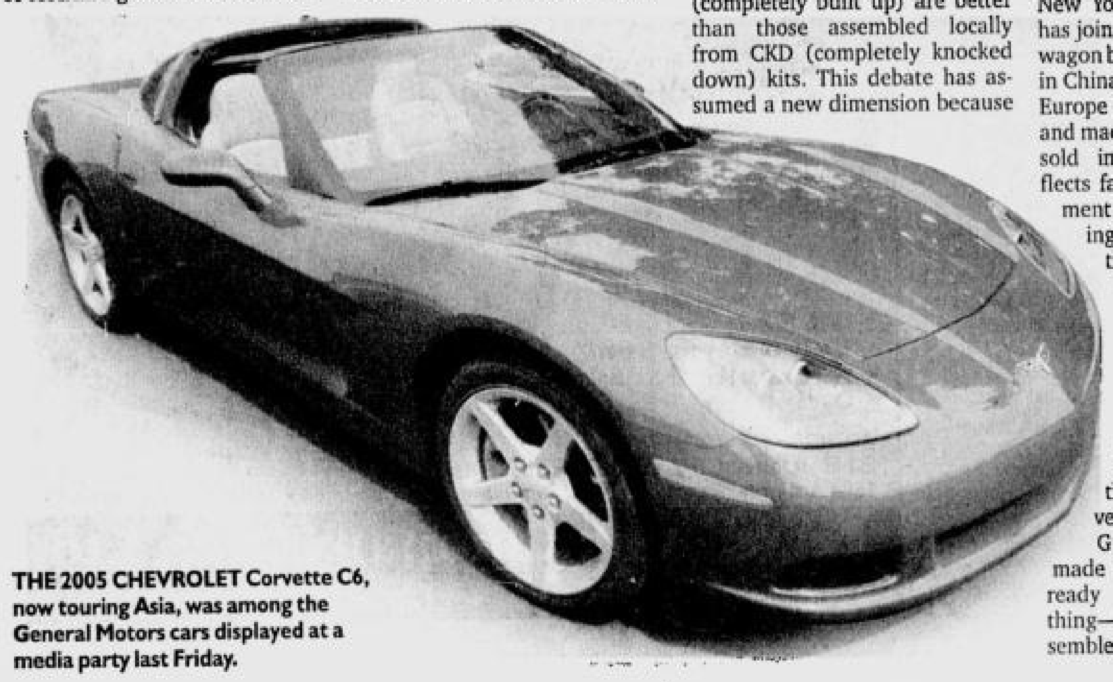
Car manufacturers who have to announce massive recalls frequently may draw some comfort from the fact that consumers often ignore or forget such issues as recalls unless they are for universally dangerous reasons, such as spontaneously exploding gas tanks. After all, nobody's perfect when it comes to quality control.

* * *

TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER: An honest politician is one who, when he is bought, will stay bought.

* * *

(E-mail comments to asevilla@inquirer.com.ph)



THE 2005 CHEVROLET Corvette C6, now touring Asia, was among the General Motors cars displayed at a media party last Friday.

Petron scores a $100-million coup

FULL TANK

Al Mendoza

PETRON has scored a coup of sorts.

It recently inaugurated its $100-million Clear Air facilities at its refinery in Limay, Bataan.

The facilities—a 22,000 barrel per day (bpd) Gasoil Hydrotreater (GOHT) and a 10,000 bpd oil company in the country—is capable of producing Clean Air Act (CAA)-compliant fuels to meet its domestic requirements.

The GOHT significantly reduces the sulfur contents in diesel while the Isom enables the production of high-octane gasoline within the CAA-prescribed limits on aromatics and benzene (35 percent and 2 percent, respectively).

"We have always endeavored to meet environmental standards set by the government through the DENR," said Petron chair Nicasio L. Alcantara. "These facilities will give us the ability to produce fuels that could match the more stringent product specifications in Europe and the United States. More importantly, the country now has a reliable and steady supply of clean fuels amid uncertain conditions in the global oil market."

Since the passage of the CAA, oil companies have resorted to importing fuels and/or blending components to meet the law's more stringent product specifications. Even refiners like Petron imported products due to process limitations.

Alcantara said the new units will eliminate the need for product imports which will result in dollar savings for the country.

* * *

As early as June last year, Petron signed a $100-million five-year term loan with Norddeutsche Landesbank Girozentrale, the Singapore branch and its three arrangers namely Citibank/Citigroup Global Markets Asia, ING Bank N.V. and Samba Financial Group of Saudi Arabia. The loan has an interest margin of 120 basis points over the three- or six-month Libor. The term loan was used to construct the GOHT and Isom.

"Our loan set a benchmark for having the lowest cost in the market which reflects the banking community's confidence in Petron's viability and growth prospects," president and CEO Khalid D. Al-Faddagh said. "Our investment in the GOHT and Isom highlights our belief in the Philippine economy, and our desire to contribute to its progress."

Wow. A big, big *pogi* point for the embattled GMA administration.

In the last quarter alone of 2004, Petron's Bataan refinery achieved another significant milestone when its Environmental Management System was given ISO-14001 certification. The refinery was given the certification after only one round of grueling environmental audits by TUV Suddeutschland (SUD) Group.

"Our decisions relating to environmental initiatives consider a balance of their contribution to the bottom line and a commitment to sustainable development and the welfare of future generations," said Al-Faddagh.

Petron's 180,000 bpd refinery processes crude oil into a full range of world-class petroleum products, including LPG, gasoline, diesel, jet fuel, kerosene, fuel oil and mixed xylene.

Any answer from Shell, Caltex and Total?

* * *

Arlan Reyes, the quiet but effective executive of Mitsubishi Motors Philippines, has a surprise anew to our dear car buffs out there.

Even as the motoring industry is again saturated with new models left and right, Arlan has a surprise package from MMP that should give the opposition a run for their money.

I refer to the Lancer 1.8 MX Limited.

You know that my lover, live-in and best friend drives a Lancer herself. More than anybody else in the family, she is the most loyal Lancer fan. When she saw the Lancer 1.8 MX Limited, she immediately fell in love with it.

"All-leather pa siya," she said. "And it's really powerful."

Priced at P898,000, the Lancer 1.8 MX Limited is a steal.

* * *

NLEX NOTES. A friend of mine said the toll booths at the North Luzon Expressway were designed by a Filipino. A female at that, I was told. If true, here's a glass to another Pinoy ingenuity... The rainy season has come and, definitely, the NLEX will be put to an acid test. It is an open secret that almost all road projects done by Filipinos are substandard. I'm sure the NLEX will not succumb to that gross practice of our evil-minded public works officials. For one, NLEX is a project of a consortium involving reputable international businessmen. For another, I know what kind of person Ping de Jesus is. The NLEX point-man from the very start, Ping has etched a name in government service that is stain-free.

* * *

QUOTE ME. When it's raining, maintain a distance from the vehicle in front of you more than the usual. The slippery road could easily cause a collision when you are that near.

* * *

Comments at menju@pldtdsl.net.

New dealership soon to open in Mandaue

THE FUTURE site of Volvo Cebu was recently unveiled at M. L. Quezon Avenue, Casuntingan, Mandaue City. The event also formally introduced Pasajero Motors Corp. (Pamocor) as the official dealer of Volvo cars in Cebu city and other nearby luxury car markets.

The affair was graced by Cebu City Mayor Tomas Osmeña and Cheryl Ouano, representing Mayor Teddy Ouano of Mandaue City.

Huge banner

The guests of honor, along with Pamocor president Franklyn Ong and VP Sidney Po as well as Viking Cars Inc. VP for marketing services Lyn Buena and AVP for business development Dave Zaballero, unveiled the huge Volvo Cebu banner signage that signifies the presence of Volvo in the city.

The 32 feet by 14 feet banner showcases the exhilarating line-up of Volvos that are revving up and raring to roll on Cebu roads.

Treats

Guests were treated to a sumptuous lunch at the Olio where Cebu City First Lady Margot Osmeña also joined the Volvo team.

Adding more color to the significant occasion is the presence of a decal-clad Volvo XC90 showing off the vibrant and festive images that best depict the Queen City of the South.

The 300-square-meter area will house the latest Volvo models when it opens sometime in August this year. An aftersales facility will also be available for Volvo clients in the Visayas area.

Volvo Cars represented by Viking Cars in the Philippines officially welcomed Pamocor as part of the Volvo family during a formal dealer agreement signing at the Tower Club last May 11. It is with confidence that both parties enter into an alliance that will further strengthen the Volvo brand in the country.

Official distributor

In Manila, Viking Cars is the official distributor of Volvo cars. The Volvo Makati office, showroom and aftersales service center are located at 2272 Chino Roces Ave., Makati City, while Volvo Ortigas Center is located at 88 ADB Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

The 2005 Volvo automobile line includes the compact all-new S40 and V50 sportswagon, sporty S60, the flagship S80 luxury sedan, the rugged Cross Country and the award-winning XC90 AWD. For inquiries, please call 893-6621 to 22 (Makati showroom) or 637-0414 to 17 (Ortigas showroom).

All that Jazz: a 10,000-km review

From page B2-3

best performance rubber available: Advan Neova's. Time has proven the chassis assessment wrong. The performance of the sticky and comfortable tires is still remarkable, wet and dry, and it is sad that the Jazz does not perform at par with the tires anymore.

The suspension of this car is undeniably noisy. Two weeks into ownership and I knew there was something wrong. Research showed that extra rubber insulation had to be added to the front shock absorber mounts to reduce road noise and the dreadful, loud, metal-on-metal "clank" that came with pot holes.

I admit that we do not have the best driving surfaces in the world, but some time and effort should have been done to adapt the car to our Third World streets. The accompanying rear suspension noise, sadly, has no easy solution. It is a good thing that the car usually only has one or two people in it, as every time I have a single passenger in the right rear seat, a less loud but equally worrying clicking noise is present.

The chassis has gone from confidence inspiring to a little worrying in these last 10 months. It has come to the point that I am looking for aftermarket ways to shore up the body of the car. A bolted H-frame (similar to that of the current Civic's design) under the body should negate the flex that causes creaking in the cabin, even when just going over a sharp village hump. Complete bushing and suspension arm kits can also be had along with the standard fare chassis braces, sway bars and strut bars.

The Fit, as our Jazz is called in Japan, has been used in domestic Japanese motorsport since 2001; hence the plethora of available "better than stock" parts. Even though I am thankful that Japanese aftermarket companies have already addressed the car's problems, any sort of solution will definitely be pricey, and therefore prohibitive.

Honest answer

So, do I regret purchasing the Honda Jazz? An honest answer is: not really. I am a firm believer in the saying: "You get what you pay for," and the premium that I paid for the Jazz (as it is the most expensive Japanese 1.3-liter econobox in the Philippine market) has had one big upside.

Fuel is expensive and the efficiency of the engine alone is enough to make you accept the other shortcomings of the car. As standard unleaded fuel is set to clear the P30 per liter barrier soon, fueling a frugal car may be the only way left, for many, to feasibly continue driving in the Philippines.

In the end, even if I did wake up tomorrow and the Jazz came with a larger, more assertive engine, I'm sure that the smile from the more aggressive acceleration would only last until I had to fill the car up. No thank you, I'll take the 1.3-liter CVT with all it's other faults.

With the gas money I am saving, I'm planning to buy a 400 bhp hydrogen-powered roadster with magnetic suspension and voice-operated "drive by wire" navigation. These will just be hot off the assembly lines in 30 years—just about the time I'll be done saving up for one.

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2BU!'S 'WAR OF THE WORLDS' EXCLUSIVE

Dakota Fanning is all of 11 years old, but you'd forget that when you see her act or hear her talk

She's got Bette Davis eyes

WHILE chatting to Dakota Fanning, it's sometimes possible to forget that she is just 11 years old.

After all, an incredible CV that includes TV commercials and television work, her award-winning film debut alongside Sean Penn in "I Am Sam," starrers with Reese Witherspoon in "Sweet Home Alabama" and Denzel Washington in "Man on Fire" and now playing Tom Cruise's daughter in the much-anticipated summer blockbuster from Steven Spielberg, "War of the Worlds," would be a justifiable source of pride for an actress three times her age.

But Dakota Fanning, she with the intense blue eyes that recall the late movie goddess Bette Davis, is just 11 years old and she's not about to forget that. "I love to ride horses and read books," she says, when asked what are the fun things in her life. "I learned how to play the piano for 'Man On Fire,' so I continued with that. I'm just like any other kid, really. But I love to do movies."

She certainly does, and she happens to be very good at acting in them, too. This remarkable young actress has won lavish praise from her vastly more experienced co-stars and directors alike. All agree that Miss Fanning is a special talent.

Dakota first started acting five years ago at the age of six when she made appearances on such acclaimed programmes as "ER," "The Practice" and the sitcom "Malcolm In The Middle." Mention the latter and she bursts into giggles at the memory.

"I did one episode of 'Malcolm in the Middle' and I was biting Rees, Malcolm's older brother," she says. "I bit his leg and his arm and I really bit him. He wanted me to really bite him, so I did! It was fun."

Dakota, and her younger sister, Elle were born in Conyers, Georgia, and it was her mother, Joy, who first took her along to a drama playgroup as a fun extra school activity.

What happened next? "You know when I was little I would dress up and pretend to be different things, and my mom saw that and she took me to this playhouse where you study for a play and do the play at the end of the week," she explains.

"And then the head of the playhouse said to my mom that we should go to an agency. And then the head of that agency said to my Mom that she should take me to California. So my Mom and I went and I got some commercials and I got some TV shows and it all kind of led to "I Am Sam," and we've never left!"

Home is now in California with dad Steve, a former baseball player, mum Joy and Elle, 7, who has followed in big sister's footsteps and starred in "The Door in the Floor" with Kim Basinger and Jeff Bridges, "Daddy Day Care" with Eddie Murphy and has even played a younger version of Dakota in "Taken," the Spielberg executive-produced mini-series, and "I Am Sam."

Dakota became the youngest actor ever nominated for a Screen Actor's Guild Award for that movie, and won the Broadcast Film Critics' Association award for Best Young Actor for her stunning performance.

Dakota has since worked with Denzel Washington in "Man On Fire," Robert De Niro in the thriller "Hide and Seek" and Kurt Russell in the yet-to-be-released "Dreamer." She is currently in the final stages of production on "Charlotte's Web" in Australia.

In "War of the Worlds," she plays Rachel Ferrier whose parents, Ray, played by Tom Cruise, and Mary Ann (Miranda Otto) are separated. Rachel and her brother, Robbie (Justin Chatwin), go to stay with their father for the weekend when Mom plans a rare trip away, and that's when the attack happens.

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DAKOTA in distress

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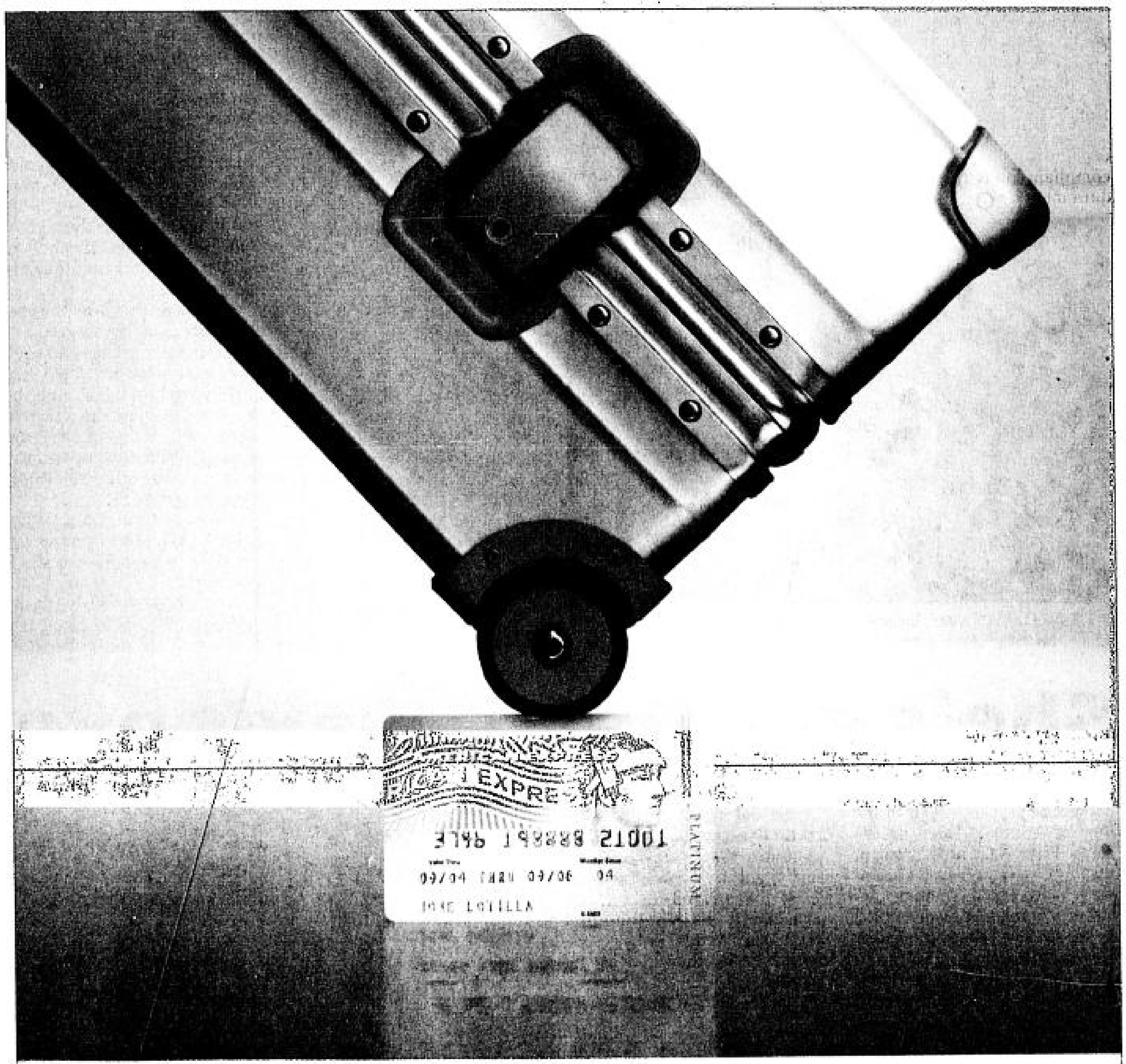

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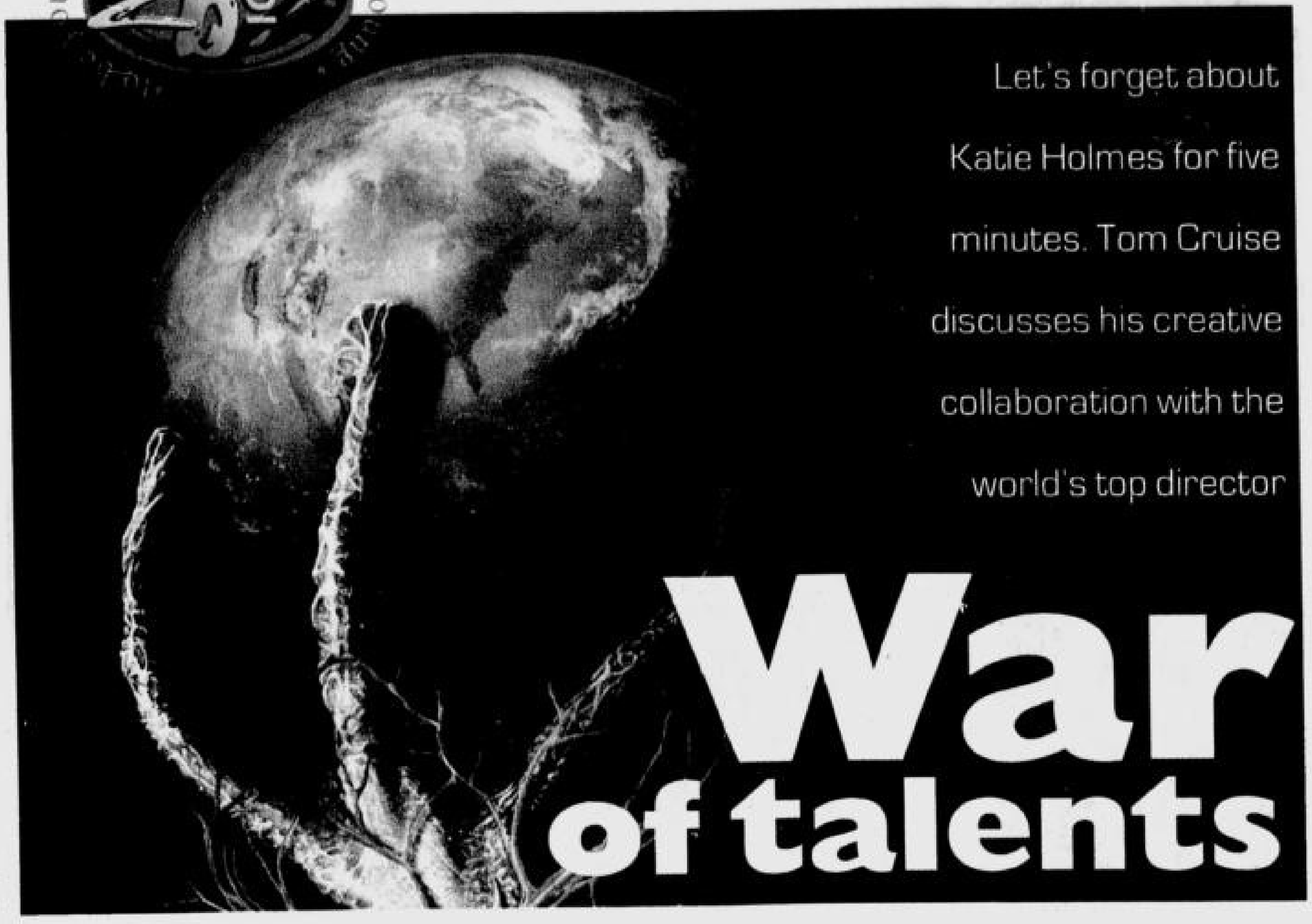
AMERICAN EXPRESS

War of talents

Let's forget about Katie Holmes for five minutes. Tom Cruise discusses his creative collaboration with the world's top director



WHEN the world's biggest movie star teams up with the world's biggest director, be prepared for cinematic fireworks. "It's just this creative combustion that occurs," is how Tom Cruise describes working with Steven Spielberg.

And it seems somehow appropriate that this energy should be harnessed for "War of the Worlds." Based loosely on H. G. Wells' novel about an alien invasion of Earth, the new movie is the latest collaboration by Cruise and Spielberg after their critically acclaimed movie, "Minority Report," in 2002.

"When you have the opportunity to create something with Steven Spielberg, it's very exciting," says Cruise. "He creates at high velocity and he is a master storyteller."

This time around, we can expect a story with all the hallmarks of a Spielberg classic and a stunning performance from the actor who has dominated Hollywood. "War of the Worlds" is an epic tale as seen through the eyes of one typical, rather fractured family headed by a "deadbeat dad," Ray Ferrier, who is separated from his wife and hasn't been the best of husbands or, indeed, of parents.

But when he looks after his two children, Rachel (Dakota Fanning) and Robbie (Justin Chatwin), after his ex-wife (Miranda Otto) goes away for the weekend, the world quite literally explodes around them, and Ferrier discovers that his desire to protect his family allows him to draw on depths of courage he never knew existed.

For Cruise, 42, the film represents a rather personal message to his own children, Isabella, 12, and Conor, 10. "I think Steven, David (Koepp, screenwriter) and I felt that this was a film we dedicated to our own children," he says. "I think a film like this represents what parents feel and talk about, you know, how far are you going to go to protect your children?"

The lure of working with Spielberg again was simply too good to resist, he says. And he has nothing but praise for writer David Koepp who crafted a very modern take onto a literary classic written more than 100 years ago.

Spielberg's friendship with the star has deepened over the years and this has enhanced their working partnership, says the director. "It's brought a whole kind of new evolution to our relationship, as director-actor," says Spielberg. "Tom brings this extraordinary presence and as an actor he is so involved, he just lights the film, lights up the character."

Spielberg has already given us some of the most memorable movie encounters with aliens—notably "E. T. the Extra Terrestrial" and "Close Encounters of the Third Kind." This time, says Cruise, it's very different. In other words, don't expect the lovable E.T. or the benign visitors of "Close Encounters."

CRUISE as Ray Ferrier

"No! Those aliens have gone rogue, you know," says Cruise. "They've gone rogue alien. It's E.T. man, but he's gone bad. You do not want to run into these aliens..."

The book "War of the Worlds" has been around for 107 years, why now?

I just thought it would be great, very exciting. And as a film fan I wanted to see what Steven is going to do with it. I want to see Spielberg direct that movie and create his own vision and I wanted to be part of that story. I remember when we had finished "Minority Report" and it was like, "What are we going to do next?" He mentioned three movies and "War of the Worlds" was the third one and we both looked at each other and realized that was it.

What sort of input did you have into the story?

There were different things that Steven and I both worked on. For me, having the guy be a deadbeat father, wanting to make the picture about a personal journey about a parent with his children and what that journey would be like, you know, if that weekend the world is coming to an end or the world is suddenly at war. That's an interesting story to me. And those are the things that Steven and I really talked about. I wanted to make it a film that I could dedicate to my children, which is about how much I love my children.

It's one of the hallmarks of a Spielberg film that he can deal with an epic, sweeping story and yet make it personal and human...

Yes, you get to understand that the whole world is under attack but it's all from the point of view of Ray Ferrier. Steven does that with his movies and it brings you right into those characters and their stories and you really care about what they are going through.

You obviously enjoy the creative process with Steven...

Steven and I, we feed off each other and, you know, he's very inspiring to be around. And the two of us, it's just this creative combustion that occurs. And when you have the opportunity to create with Steven Spielberg, it's very exciting.

Dakota Fanning is proving to be a very gifted young actor. What was it like to work with her?

Dakota is enormously talented. She is innately talented and very bright and fun to be with, too. And Justin (Chatwin, who plays Robbie Ferrier), very talented. I thought the movie was beautifully cast.

You've become known for doing a lot of your own stunt work. What did you do on this movie?

A little running and window smashing and cars flying at me and running away! Oh, and the swimming. Dakota, Justin and I in the water—that was fun. We had to jump off this huge platform into the water and Dakota's looking at me and I said "you can do this." It's about an eight-foot jump and she looked at me and it's like "OK..." and I was like "come on you can trust me..." I had to take her to the bottom of the pool and then we had to come up. We went all the way down and then we had to take our masks off. And I was looking at her saying "Are you okay?" and she was like "yeah, yeah." So she would hang on to me and I would have these weights and we would drop down 14 ft, fast. And you know the three of us were just laughing hysterically, looking at each other under the water.

And the car going through the window?

That was fun, you know. Those kind of things are really cool and gets your adrenaline going. But what I'm really proud of in this story is the relationships in the movie—those moments are really wonderful. Steven and I were talking about it and it's the littlest, biggest film we've made. I mean it's the biggest film I've ever been part of, and I'm talking about in scale, not in (terms of) finance. But it's just huge and it has everything I want to see in a Spielberg movie.

What can we expect from the aliens in "War of the Worlds?"

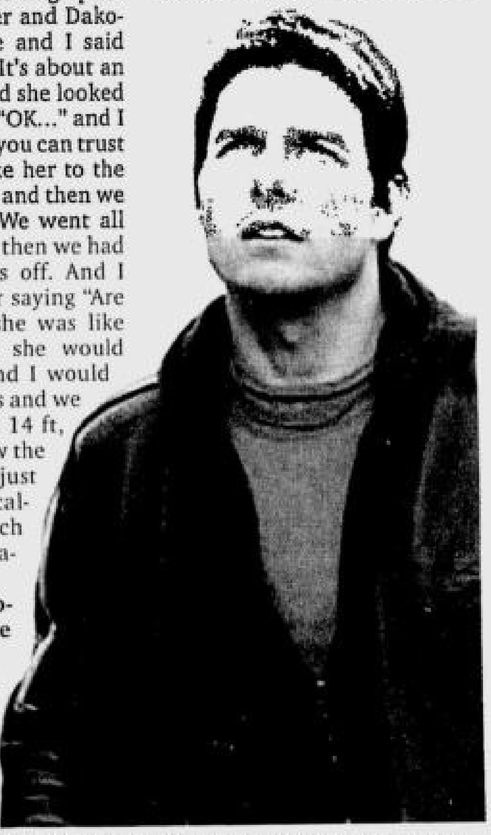
Those aliens have gone rogue, you know. They've gone rogue alien. It's E.T. man, but he's gone bad. You do not want to run into these aliens! They're malevolent.

So we can expect plenty of scares?

This is going to be a scary movie—this is a scary, intense film. And emotional. It's an emotional epic.

What do you hope the audience will get from "War of the Worlds?"

It would be nice if they walked out and wanted to hug their children or maybe they wanted to take time with their family a little more. But I hate to tell people what I want them to feel. And when I was making this film I really thought about what are the common enemies of mankind instead of man on man. So somewhere there is that thought of us wanting to unite together, to battle those common enemies. And, of course, we want to scare the audience, give them a great ride and wow them with this. And we're in the hands of a master storyteller here, Steven Spielberg. As a Spielberg fan, I really wanted him to make this movie.



"I JUST feel I'm lucky to be making a movie and working with Steven Spielberg, the greatest storyteller in the history of film."

"IT'S ACTUALLY a very intimate story about the family," saya Tom Cruise on "War of the Worlds."

She's got Bette Davis eyes

From page C1

Steven Spielberg's "War of the Worlds," which is based on the classic H. G. Wells story, is one of the most eagerly awaited films of the year. It featuring stunning special effects and a brilliant cast led by the most acclaimed filmmaker working today.

This telephone interview with Dakota was conducted in early May while she was still in Australia filming "Charlotte's Web."

How are you?

I'm good. How are you? I'm in Melbourne for "Charlotte's Web." I've been here for a month and a half and I have three weeks to go. It's been really fun, I've never been here before, and it's been really exciting.

How much of Steven Spielberg's work did you know when you met him?

I knew a lot about him. I mean, my favorite movie is "ET," but I knew he has done lots of amazing movies. And he's a really nice guy. When I worked with him on "War of the Worlds" he was like my Dad, you know, and I saw him every day.

Had you met Tom Cruise before?

I hadn't. I met him in New York a couple of days before we started shooting and that was the first time. He is a really nice guy, he is so kind and loving. Everyone knows what a great actor he is, but he makes everyone feel so special about themselves and treats everyone with such respect.

What did he say to you that first time you met?

The first thing he did was he came in and he ran over and he picked me up and swung me round and he said, "we're making 'War of the Worlds,' baby!' And that was the first thing (laughs). It was great.

What do you think of the story?

It's loosely based on the book. And I thought it was best if I waited until after we had made the movie to read the book, so I will read it now.

Tell me about your character.

My character is Rachel and I'm Tom's daughter and at the center of this epic story is a family and they are basically just trying to keep safe and stay alive and stay together, and my character is very worried about the whole thing (laughs) as she should be! She doesn't have a very good relationship with her father, since she is mostly with her mom. And her mom has left the kids with her father while she goes on a trip, and then the attack happens. So it's the worst time for it to happen because she is not with her mom who she feels the safest with. But she is with her older brother, who is played by Justin Chapman, who is a comfort to her. And you know, the objective is to stay alive and get back to their mom.

Is it going to be scary, do you think?

"TOM (Cruise) and Steven (Spielberg) were like father figures to me on the set."

It's definitely going to be scary, but it is going to be really exciting-scary.

Did you do a lot of what they call "green screen?" Did you actually see any aliens when you were acting?

No we didn't. You know, Steven would kind of explain where they were going to be and what they looked like, but it's mainly going to be a big surprise for me too when I get to see them (laughs).

You've worked with great directors. How was it like working with Steven?

He is the best. It was a dream of mine to get to work with him. And with Tom and Tim Robbins and Miranda Otto and everybody in the same movie was unbelievable. I could never have asked for anything better.

I know you work hard, but do you have fun when you are on a big movie like "War of the Worlds"?

I do. You know, it's really exciting to be on such a big set with so much going on. And at the heart of it was Steven, and he really created this whole thing and if it wasn't for him I'd never have had the opportunity to be in this movie, and I so wanted to be a part of "War of the Worlds."

But did you get to have some fun when you were in between scenes?

I did. There were always other kids on set, like doubles and things, so there were always other kids to be around and hang out with.

How does the schooling work for you?

I do four hours a day and I have a teacher that has been with me for five years, and she does all my school.

What is it that you like so much about acting?

I guess it's that you get to be different people and you get to do things that you wouldn't do, and to go places that you might not get to go if it weren't for this movie. I might not have gotten to go to Australia if it weren't for "Charlotte's Web," and I definitely wouldn't have got to meet Steven and Tom if it weren't for "War of the Worlds." So those are the most special parts of acting.

Do you have favorite movies that you've made?

All of the movies I've done have been so different and I'm so happy that I've been a part of them. I really feel that on every movie I've learned something new and grown in a different way, and I really feel that it's what I want to do with the rest of my life and it's a special part of me.

Do you keep in touch with your friends when you are away from home making a movie?

When I'm not working, I see them often and we e-mail each other and phone them so I'm not cut off from them when I'm working.

Who is your best friend?

James. He's back in California. He isn't an actor. He gets really excited about all the movies and he can't wait to see "War of the Worlds."

You've worked with some very famous leading men, like Sean Penn, Denzel Washington and Tom Cruise. Do you have a favorite?

Oh I could never pick a favorite. They all mean too much to me. I'll never forget all the memories we've shared.

Is it true you might be doing "Alice in Wonderland"?

Maybe in a couple of years, but I can't really think about that right now.

You've got three weeks left on "Charlotte's Web." Are you looking forward to going back home?

I am. Melbourne's great but I am looking forward to going home.

Have you got pets?

Yes, I've got a horse called Goldie, a Palomino, who is 5. I ride every weekend. But when I go home I'll try and ride him him every day.

What was Tom like to work with?

Well, both Steven and Tom were kind of like father figures for me on the set, very supportive.

Do you ever get nervous?

No, you know I don't. I'm always just really excited.

It's obviously important that you have mom with you...

Oh yeah. I'm with her all the time. The most that I've never seen her was three days. She's a great mom. I have the best little sister, too. She's the perfect little sister.

GOOD Charlotte will be in Manila on July 8.

Good Lord, it's Good Charlotte!

By Angela V. Ignacio
2bU! Correspondent

POP PUNKS, rejoice! The US rock band who's showered us with happy-go-lucky tunes and musical parodies of celebrity life (namely, theirs) is hitting Philippine shores.

Good Charlotte will be rockin' it out on July 8 at the Folk Arts Theater as part of its "Noise To The World 2005" tour, courtesy of Pulp Magazine. Hot local acts Kamikazee, Chicosci, Mayonnaise and Typecast will be sharing the stage with the band.

Its latest album "Chronicles Of Life And Death," which debuted at No. 3 on the Billboard 200 rock chart, had the band venturing into a "darker-sounding" path than its previous records.

While the band was hamming it up in sizzling Mexico, 2bU! recently had a phone chat with guitarist Benji Madden. Apparently, these boys have grown up a bit while we weren't looking!

You've launched your "Noise to the World Tour" together with Simple Plan, right? How did it go?

Oh, it was good, good.

How did the crowd react to you guys playing together?

Well, just that it was fun. There was a huge crowd turnout, we worked up a storm on the stage, and everybody seemed to enjoy themselves.

> 2bU! recently had a phone chat with guitarist Benji Madden while the band was hamming it up in sizzling Mexico

I understand that Chris (Wilson, drummer) isn't with you guys anymore due to health problems. How is he now?

I think he's doing okay. You know, I think it's best that he stays at home with his family and get better, because being on the road a lot isn't really gonna help him recover.

You guys must miss him a lot, huh?

Yeah... he's a good friend and a good drummer.

Will Dean Butterworth (former drummer of Morrissey) be permanently manning the drums now?

Yeah, Dean's playing with us indefinitely. He's our drummer right now for the rest of the tour.

When "Chronicles" came out, there were a lot of mixed reviews, but they basically said it was a whole new sound. What do you think made it different from your previous albums?

I just think we took a step toward a different direction with this album. We like experimenting with new things, and of course, we don't want to make the same records. For us, we kind of wanted to add a larger, broader range to our "genre," which is more like pop-punk.

So it's more grown up-sounding, you mean?

Yeah! It's gonna be kind of like that for the next record, too—more mature stuff. I think that we've pulled in a "darker" theme with the last record, and we want people to know that we're coming out with a lighter sound for the new material. We're really looking forward to it.

What's your reaction to people saying that your last video, "We Believe," had some political undertones?

I think people just consider it [as] what they want to see. We just want to show that there are good people all over the world, that they want to speak up about what they stand for. We like to be very firm about things, especially the things we believe in. We want to make people aware of what's happening right now.

GOOD CHARLOTTE

ALL grown up

Well, nearly every band seems to be going political nowadays... not that it's a bad thing.

We're definitely not political, but we are standing up for equality, just like other artists. Like, don't forget that we're all human, you know? I'm hoping everyone will take a step toward that.

I hope so, too. Now, about the tour, I heard you backed out of your Indonesian gig because of terrorist bombing threats.

Yeah. I just feel bad that we had to cancel that [leg of the] tour. It's kinda out of our hands, and with the international situation and terrorism, we just wanna make sure that everyone who's on tour with us is out of danger more than anything.

I hope you guys don't cancel your show here, because a lot of people are excited to watch you guys play.

We're very excited, too.

So what can we expect from your one-night show here in Manila?

A good time and a great show. And a lot of screaming.

Do you guys have anything up your sleeve (like, dress up like junk food and veggies, maybe)?

I don't know, actually... but we'll work on it. (Laughs)

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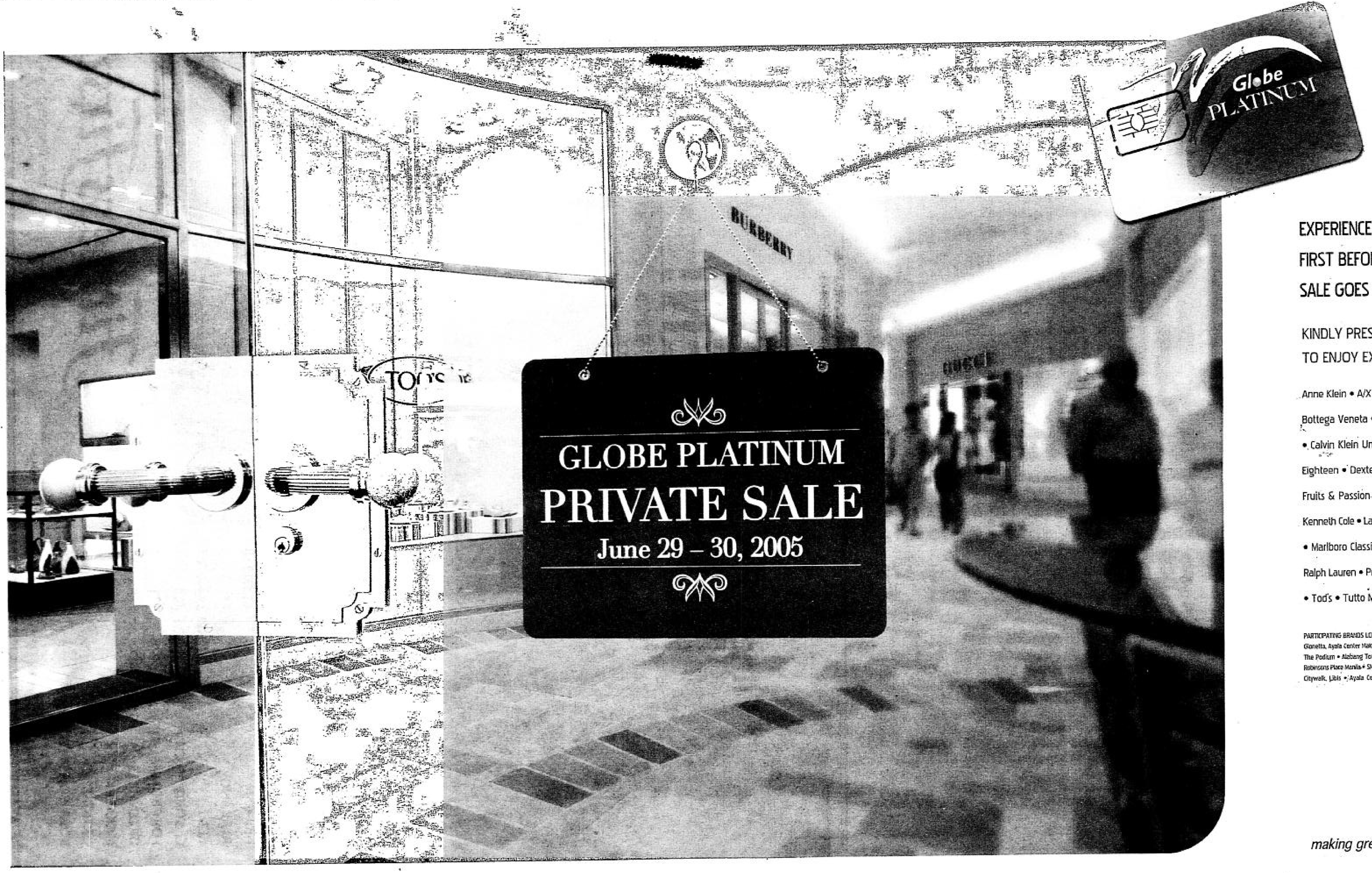

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From the entries, five lucky Pinoys will get the chance to outsmart, outwit and outshop each other on an all-out, no-holds-barred local shopping competition that will prove, once and for all, the chosen one who eats, lives and breathes shopping.

Entries will be judged based on the following criteria: creativity and uniqueness (30 percent), content (30 percent), composition (20 percent) and impact (20 percent).

The lucky winner will walk away with a four-day, three-night trip to Hong Kong for two to participate in the 2005 Shopper of the Year contest, including return flight tickets and hotel accommodation, courtesy of the Hong Kong Tourism Board.

The 2005 Shopper of the Year contest requires each team to purchase one item from each of the four shopping themes, which are Fashion and Beauty, Jewelry and Watches, Consumer Electronics and Chinese Traditions. Each team will also be given a digital camera to capture their shopping moments, and the newly introduced Photo Award will be given to the best team.

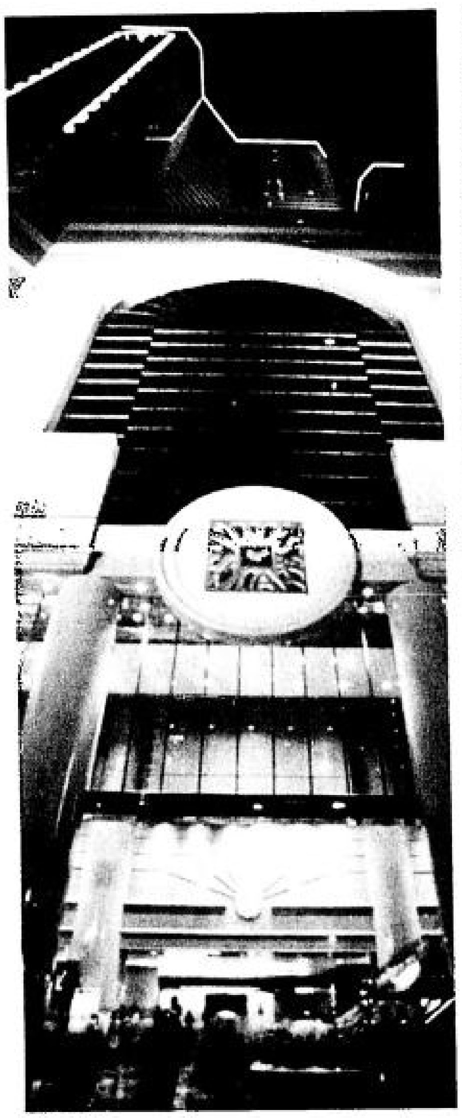
Now are you guys ready for this? What do you want to take home to 'Pinas if you win the grand prize in Hong Kong?

Everything that your shopper's heart desires! Round-trip tickets from Cathay Pacific, a two-night stay in a Grand Deluxe Harbour view suite, a helitour of Hong Kong, a Samsung Notebook and many more cool and exciting prizes await the lucky Shopper of the Year winner in Hong Kong.

So if shopping genuinely runs in your blood, expend all that furious energy and send in your answers now! Don't forget your photos, too!

Good luck and hail to Pinoy shoppers everywhere!

Announcement of the Philippine representative to the Shopper of the Year Contest will be on July 13.


TIMES Square

Smart shopping in HONG KONG

UNCOVER the wheres, whats and hows of the ultimate Hong Kong shopping experience by joining the sensational Hong Kong Shopping Festival, which started last June 25 and will end August 31.

Shopaholics looking for quality products and excellent service will be glad to know they can shop and dine in great comfort and style wherever they see the QTS (Quality Tourism Services) sign.

The QTS Scheme was organized by the Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTB) essentially to help visitors find shops and restaurants they can trust. This scheme certifies shops and restaurants as having passed stringent annual assessments which show that they:

- Provide genuine products with clearly displayed prices;
- Display clearly product information and/or menus; and
- Ensure superb customer service with front-line staff possessing extensive product knowledge so they can answer questions efficiently.

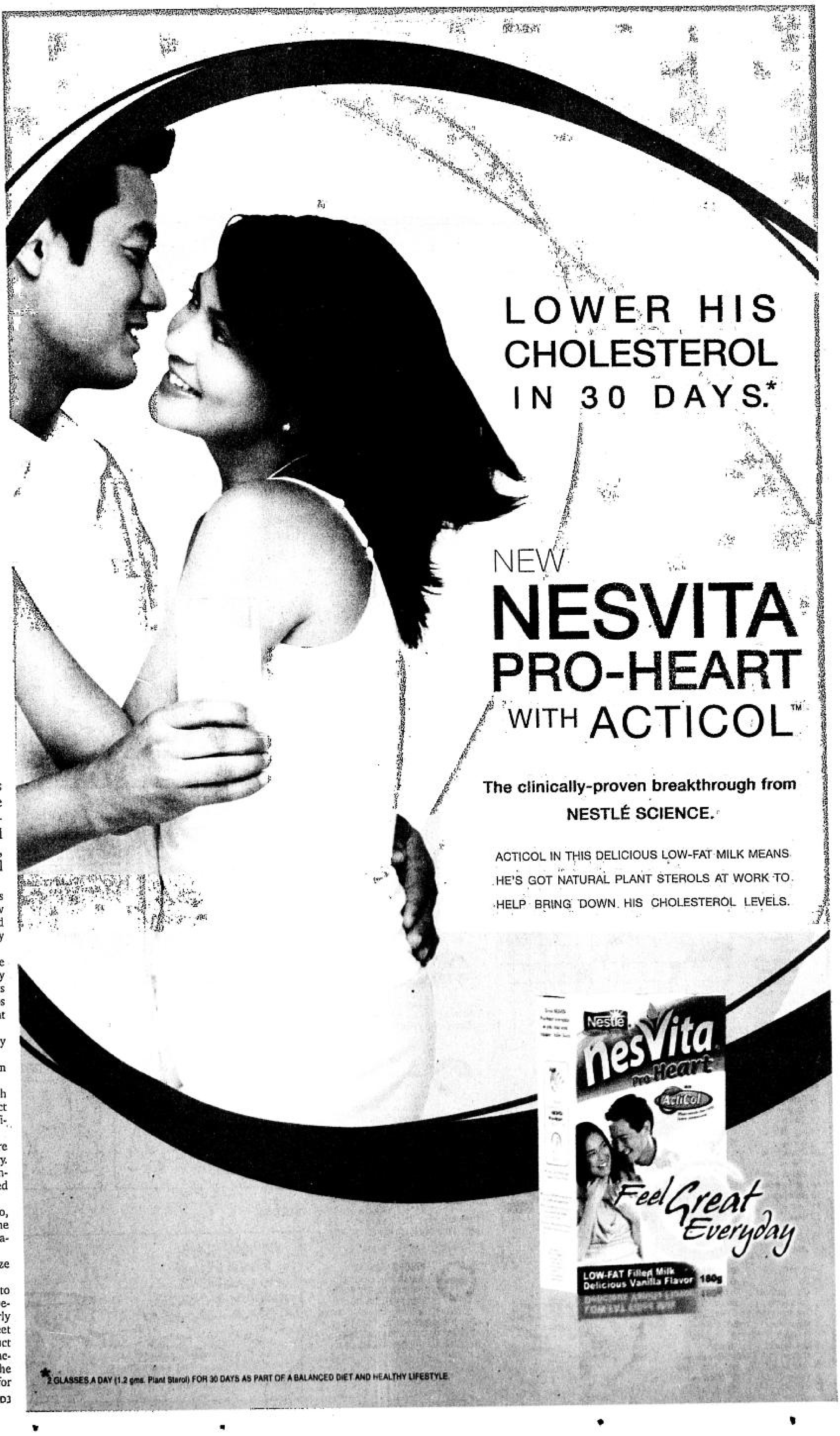
Only shops and restaurants that qualify are allowed to display the QTS sign of quality. The HKTB also provides assistance on inquiries about purchases from QTS-accredited shops and restaurants.

All goods, other than alcohol and tobacco, are tax-free. This makes Hong Kong one of the world's most attractive shopping destinations.

Here are some tips on how to maximize your Hong Kong shopping experience:

Compare prices. Check different shops to compare prices of items you wish to buy. Department stores and chain stores also clearly label their products. Smaller shops and street market stalls often do not mark product prices, providing a great opportunity to practice bargaining skills. Visitors may contact the Consumer Council on (852) 29292222 for

SMART/D3


LOWER HIS CHOLESTEROL IN 30 DAYS.*

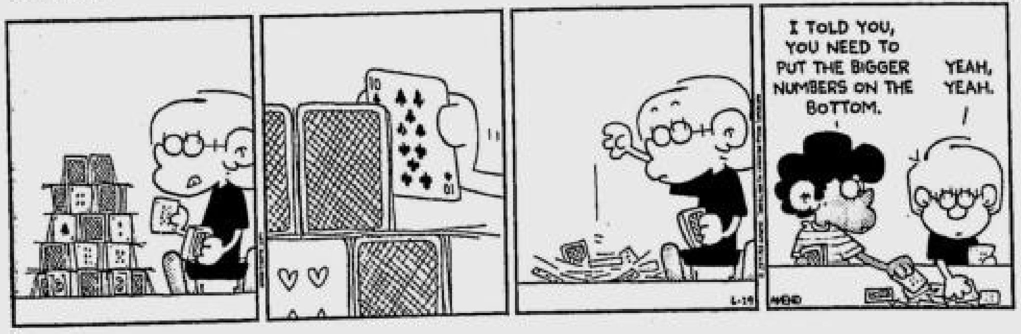
NEW NESVITA PRO-HEART WITH ACTICOL™

The clinically-proven breakthrough from NESTLÉ SCIENCE.

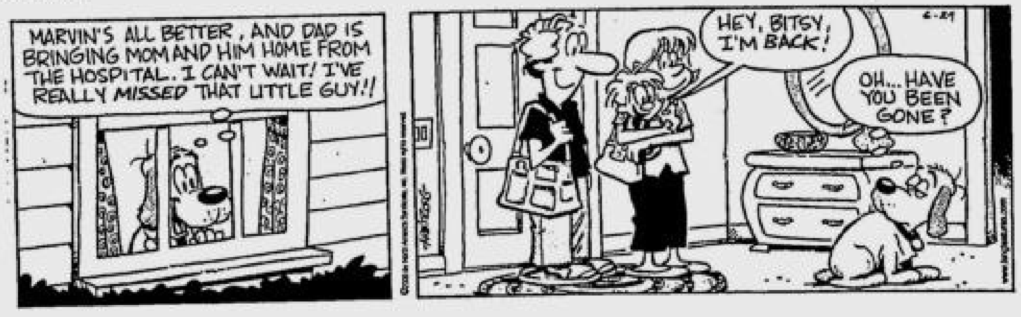
ACTICOL IN THIS DELICIOUS LOW-FAT MILK MEANS HE'S GOT NATURAL PLANT STEROLS AT WORK TO HELP BRING DOWN HIS CHOLESTEROL LEVELS.

*2 GLASSES A DAY (1.2 gms. Plant Sterol) FOR 30 DAYS AS PART OF A BALANCED DIET AND HEALTHY LIFESTYLE.

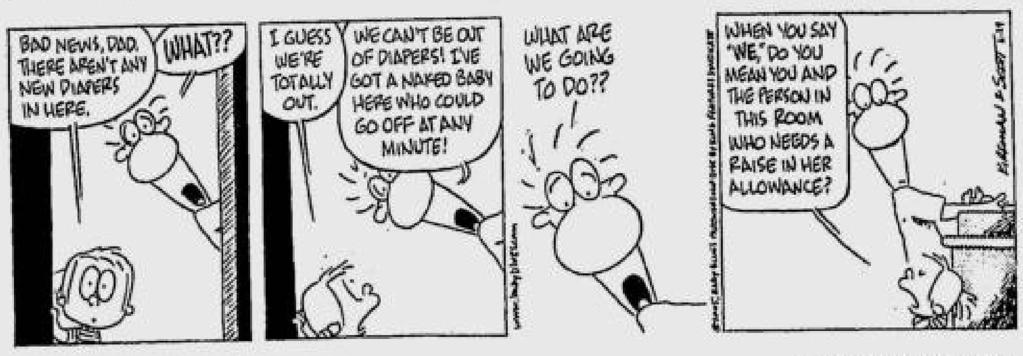
FOXTROT
BY BILL AMEND


I TOLD YOU, YOU NEED TO PUT THE BIGGER NUMBERS ON THE BOTTOM.
YEAH, YEAH.
6-29
AMEND

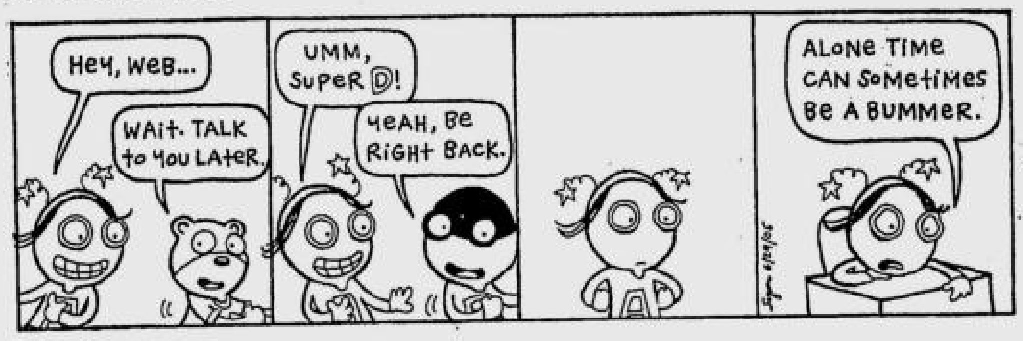
MARVIN
BY TOM ARMSTRONG


MARVIN'S ALL BETTER, AND DAD IS BRINGING MOM AND HIM HOME FROM THE HOSPITAL. I CAN'T WAIT! I'VE REALLY MISSED THAT LITTLE GUY!!
HEY, BITSY, I'M BACK!
OH... HAVE YOU BEEN GONE?
6-29

BABY BLUES
BY JERRY SCOTT


BAD NEWS, DAD. THERE AREN'T ANY NEW DIAPERS IN HERE.
WHAT??
I GUESS WE'RE TOTALLY OUT.
WE CAN'T BE OUT OF DIAPERS! I'VE GOT A NAKED BABY HERE WHO COULD GO OFF AT ANY MINUTE!
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO??
WHEN YOU SAY "WE," DO YOU MEAN YOU AND THE PERSON IN THIS ROOM WHO NEEDS A RAISE IN HER ALLOWANCE?
KIRKMAN & SCOTT 6-29

ATOMO AND WEBOY
BY LYRA GARCELLANO


Hey, WeB...
WAit. TALK to You LAteR.
UMM, SupeR D!
yeAH, Be RiGHt BAck.
ALone TiMe CAN SoMetiMes Be A BUMMER.

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You will be young all your life. You have a natural joie de vivre. You're not afraid to follow your dreams. No matter what you do for a living, you'll always embrace whimsy and playfulness in your activities. (You don't want to grow up.) The year ahead is wonderfully social! Romance is sweetly promising.
Birthdate of: Richard Lewis, comedian; Gary Busey, actor; Slim Pickens, actor.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): The Moon is in your sign today, and this makes you more emotional about everything. Be patient with others. Don't give in to your knee-jerk reactions about things.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You need a bit of solitude today. Try to be more laid-back. If you can steal some private moments just for yourself, do it! You'll love it.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): An important conversation with a female friend might help you today. Either you need to confide in somebody, or somebody needs to confide in you. Either way, it's a good thing.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): There's a very good chance that you will inadvertently do something that calls attention to you. Be aware of this. People notice you today.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You'd rather be somewhere else today. You feel like you need to escape. You want a change of scenery. Address this need by visiting someplace you've never been before (even a new store or restaurant).

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You will see completely new uses for an old or existing item. You're in a very resourceful, practical frame of mind today. Look for solutions to old problems.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): A conversation with a close friend or partner is significant. Be attentive, and listen to what this person wants to tell you. It could be important.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Capitalize on your urge to get better-organized today. Tidy up magazines and newspapers. Get rid of garbage. Reduce the clutter in your life. You'll feel so much better!

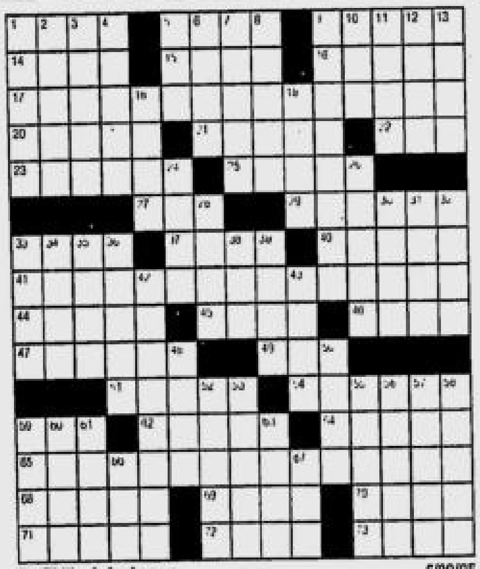
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Flirtations might excite you today. (Who knew?) You might have a secret admirer! Better yet, it might be a not-so-secret admirer. Good luck!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Share some time with a family member today, perhaps a parent, because this is important. Someone at home needs your attention. (Just do what you can.)

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Get out there and get some errands done. It's also a good day for short trips. There's a lot to do, and this is the day to do it! Feel the buzz!

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Financial matters, money deals, shopping, buying and selling—these are some of your concerns today. Focus your attention on cash and your assets. Respect your moneymaking ideas.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Philip J. Anderson
Portland, OR
6/29/05

ACROSS
1 Lion's fare
5 Practice boxing
9 Costs per unit
14 Gillette shaver
15 Sole's curve
16 Parent an orphan
17 "The Hustler" sequel
20 Male voice
21 Disgusted
22 ID info
23 Obliterates
25 Pat of "Wheel of Fortune"
27 Behold
29 Tennessee's lizard?
33 Bologna eight
37 Skin cream ingredient
40 Short-lived Ford
41 Stars of 17A
44 One archangel
45 Childhood taboo
46 Lip
47 Unmarried
49 High mount
51 Sore spots
54 Porters
59 Made in the ___
62 Beaus
64 Japanese entree
65 Character in 17A
68 Milo or Tessie
69 Lat. list-ender
70 Submerged
71 Less outgoing
72 Have confidence
73 Affirmative votes

DOWN
1 Dull finish
2 Old anesthetic
3 Contest site
4 Tex-Mex order
5 Mineo or Maglie
6 Coll. faculty member
7 Land units
8 Valerie Harper sitcom
9 Violent marauder
10 Brouhaha
11 Heavy weights
12 Fencing weapon
13 Hades river
18 Mineral deposits
19 Japanese peak
24 Penn or Astin
26 Large African antelopes
28 Distinctive style
30 Mongolia's place
31 Untouchable Eliot
32 Tavern orders
33 Difficult obligation
34 Garr of "Close Encounters"
35 Duplicate
36 Last Greek letter
38 John's Yoko
39 Author Ferber
42 Danger-has-passed signal
43 Stable youngster
48 Barak of Israel
50 Stance
52 Church official
53 Connecting rooms
55 City on the Arkansas
56 Written test
57 European river
58 Kitchen fixtures
59 Sci-fi ships
60 Pageant band
61 Pallid
63 Tight closure
66 Golf gadget
67 Picnic pest

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

O	D	D	S	■	P	A	P	A	■	B	Y	R	N	E
D	A	R	L	■	A	D	E	N	■	L	O	B	E	D
O	V	E	R	A	N	D	D	O	N	E	W	I	T	H
R	E	G	A	R	D	■	I	D	E	A	L	■	■	■
■	■	■	C	L	E	F	■	E	L	K	■	A	R	K
R	E	V	■	O	R	E	L	■	L	E	S	S	E	E
E	L	I	S	■	E	T	U	I	■	S	A	L	V	E
M	I	S	T	E	R	I	N	B	E	T	W	E	E	N
A	X	I	A	L	■	D	E	E	D	■	S	E	A	L
D	I	N	G	E	D	■	S	A	G	A	■	P	L	Y
F	R	O	■	C	I	O	■	M	E	R	E	■	■	■
■	■	■	S	T	E	T	S	■	L	I	S	T	E	D
U	N	D	E	R	T	H	E	W	E	A	T	H	E	R
N	A	O	M	I	■	E	V	E	S	■	E	I	R	E
A	N	T	I	C	■	R	E	D	S	■	S	N	O	W

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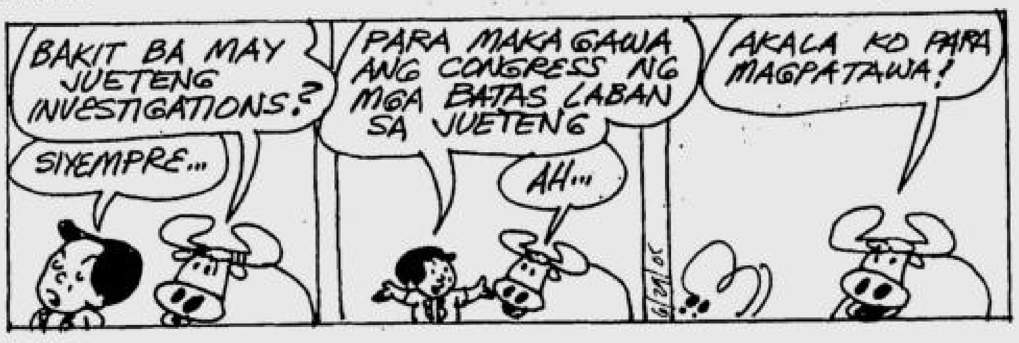
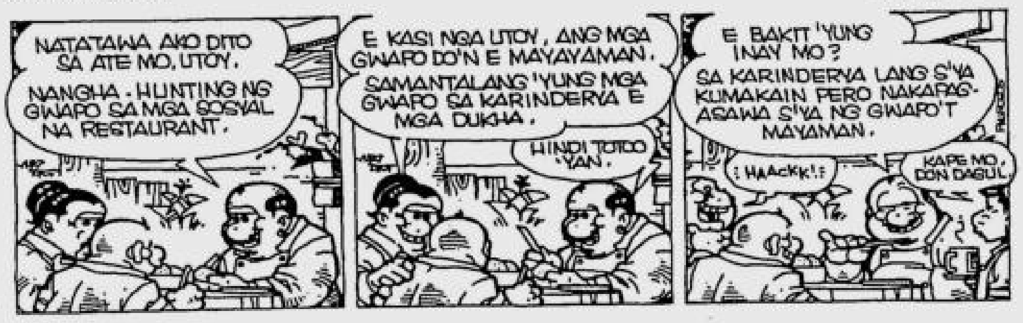
6/28/05

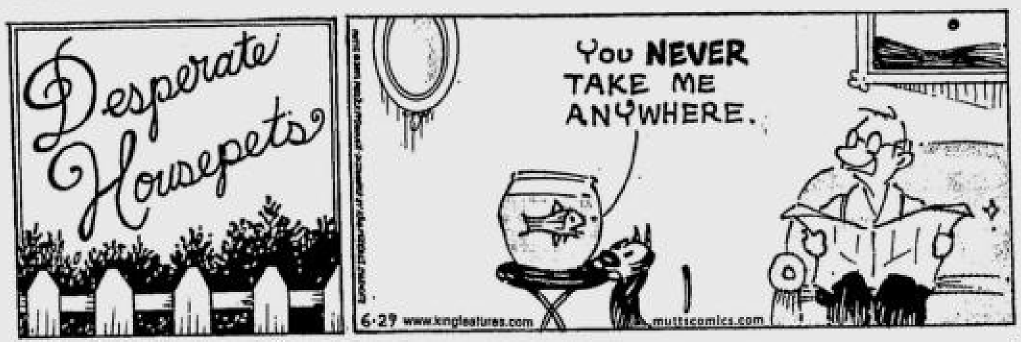
A. LIPIN
BY JESS ABRERA


BAKIT BA MAY JUETENG INVESTIGATIONS?
SIYEMPRE...
PARA MAKAGAWA ANG CONGRESS NG MGA BATAS LABAN SA JUETENG
AH...
AKALA KO PARA MAGPATAWA!
6/29/05

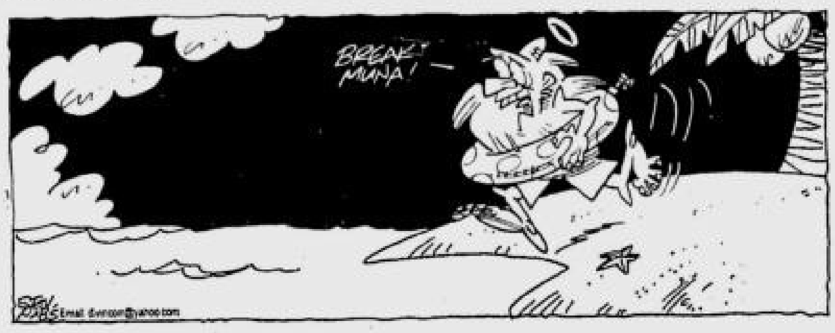
PUGAD BABOY
BY P.M. JUNIOR


NATATAWA AKO DITO SA ATE MO, UTOY.
NANGHA-HUNTING NG GWAPO SA MGA SOSYAL NA RESTAURANT.
E KASI NGA UTOY, ANG MGA GWAPO DO'N E MAYAYAMAN.
SAMANTALANG 'YUNG MGA GWAPO SA KARINDERYA E MGA DUKHA.
HINDI TOTOO 'YAN.
E BAKIT 'YUNG INAY MO?
SA KARINDERYA LANG S'YA KUMAKAIN PERO NAKAPAG-ASAWA S'YA NG GWAPO'T MAYAMAN.
¡HAACKK!¡
KAPE MO, DON DAGUL.

MUTTS
BY PATRICK McDONNELL

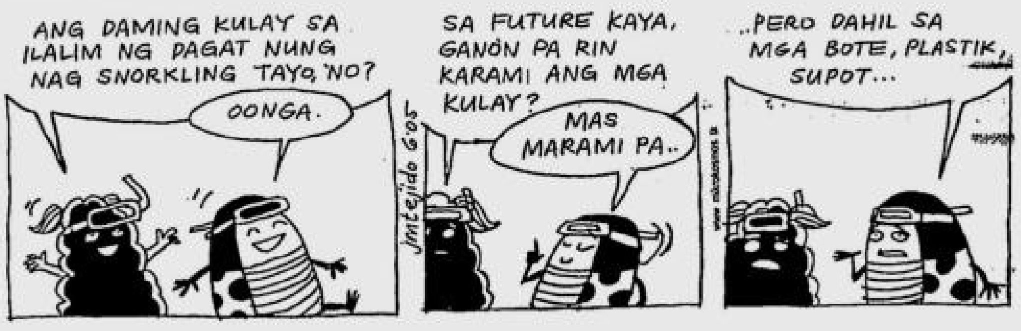

Desperate Housepets
You NEVER TAKE ME ANYWHERE.
6·29 www.kingfeatures.com
muttscomics.com

DIVINE COMEDY
BY STEVEN PABALINAS

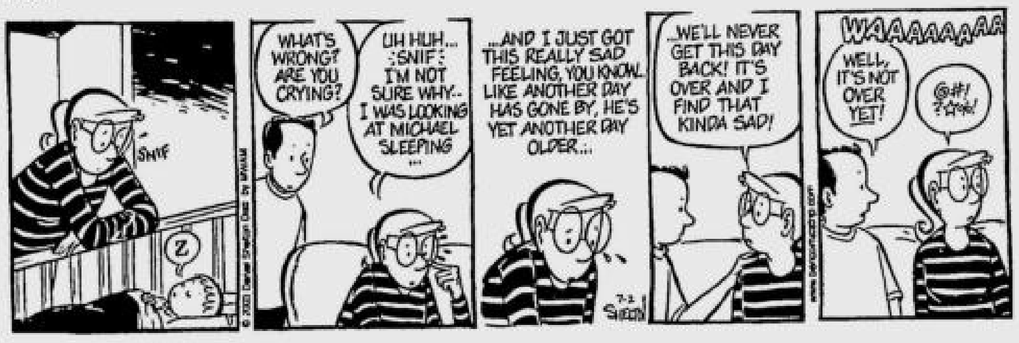


AND GOD RESTED ON THE SEVENTH DAY

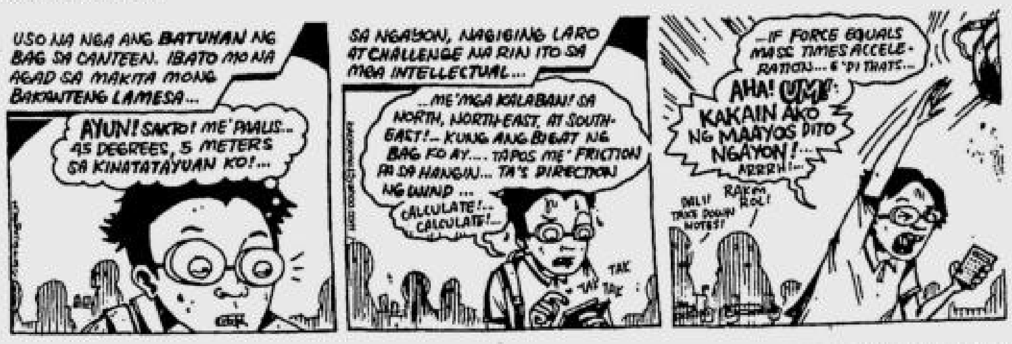
MIKROKOSMOS
BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


ANG DAMING KULAY SA ILALIM NG DAGAT NUNG NAG SNORKLING TAYO, 'NO?
OONGA.
SA FUTURE KAYA, GANÒN PA RIN KARAMI ANG MGA KULAY?
MAS MARAMI PA..
..PERO DAHIL SA MGA BOTE, PLASTIK, SUPOT...
Jmtejido 6'05

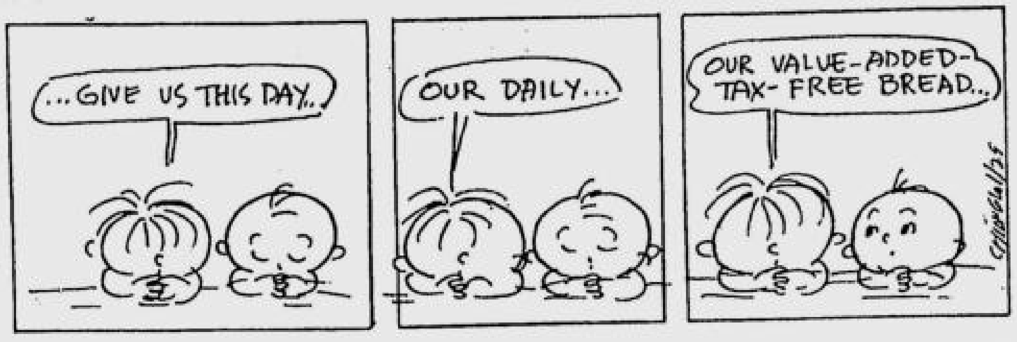
BEN
BY DANIEL SHELTON


SNIF
Z
WHAT'S WRONG? ARE YOU CRYING?
UH HUH... :SNIF: I'M NOT SURE WHY.. I WAS LOOKING AT MICHAEL SLEEPING ...
...AND I JUST GOT THIS REALLY SAD FEELING, YOU KNOW. LIKE ANOTHER DAY HAS GONE BY, HE'S YET ANOTHER DAY OLDER...
...WE'LL NEVER GET THIS DAY BACK! IT'S OVER AND I FIND THAT KINDA SAD!
WAAAAAAAA
WELL, IT'S NOT OVER YET!
@#! ?☆%!
7-2 SHELTON

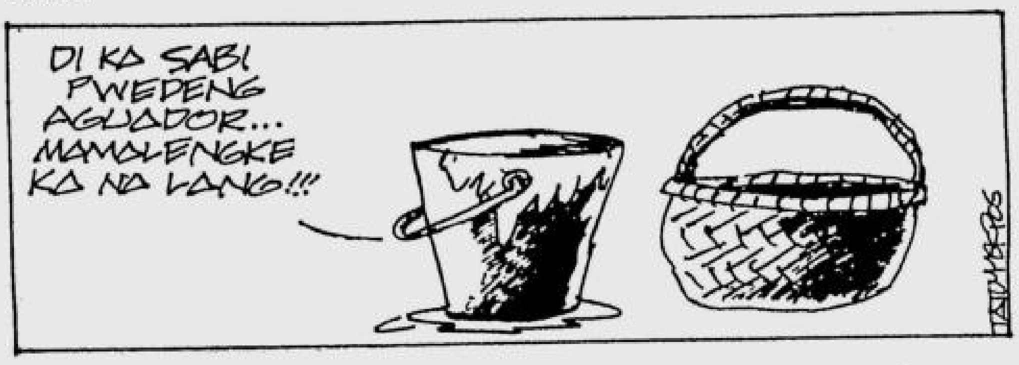
KIKO MACHINE
BY MANIX ABRERA


USO NA NGA ANG BATUHAN NG BAG SA CANTEEN. IBATO MO NA AGAD SA MAKITA MONG BAKANTENG LAMESA...
AYUN! SAKTO! ME' PAALIS.. 45 DEGREES, 5 METERS SA KINATATAYUAN KO!...
SA NGAYON, NAGIGING LARO AT CHALLENGE NA RIN ITO SA MGA INTELLECTUAL...
...ME' MGA KALABAN! SA NORTH, NORTH-EAST, AT SOUTH-EAST!... KUNG ANG BIGAT NG BAG KO AY.... TAPOS ME' FRICTION PA SA HANGIN... TA'S DIRECTION NG WIND ...
CALCULATE!... CALCULATE!...
TAK TAK TAK
...IF FORCE EQUALS MASS TIMES ACCELERATION... E 'DI THAT'S...
AHA! UM!
KAKAIN AKO NG MAAYOS DITO NGAYON!...
ARRRH!...
DALI! TAKE DOWN NOTES!
RAKIM ROL!

LOVEKNOTS
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


...GIVE US THIS DAY..
OUR DAILY...
OUR VALUE-ADDED-TAX-FREE BREAD...

TULDOK
BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


DI KA SABI PWEDENG AGUADOR... MAMALENGKE KA NA LANG!!!

Smart shopping in HONG KONG

PACIFIC Place

From page D1

suggested retail prices.

Know the product you want to buy. Make sure you know what you want in terms of models, features, prices and accessories, especially when you buy electronic goods. When you buy Chinese medicine and dried seafood, check the product's unit price and the method used to measure the weight of the goods. If you have any queries about prices, contact the Consumer Council, the wholesaler or agent, or visit the manufacturer's showroom for further product information.

Be aware of parallel imports. Parallel imports are items brought into Hong Kong by someone other than the official import agent. While these products can be cheaper, they often offer restricted guarantees or limited after-sales service. Check the product and ask the sales staff before buying.

Avoid bait-and-switch tactics. Some merchants display ambiguous prices or request a deposit on a product, only to claim later that only an inferior or more expensive product is available. In order to avoid these bait-and-switch tactics, be sure to shop at outlets where product prices are clearly displayed. Again, compare prices and understand exactly what you are buying and what the price covers. And patronize QTS-accredited merchants only.

Inspect the product. Check the product before paying and leaving the store, and make sure you have all the inclusive accessories.

Check your receipts. Always get a sales receipt (street stalls sometimes do not provide them). Check to ensure that all details and verbal agreements are fully listed on the sales receipt. Make sure the product details listed match the product you have bought.

Most Hong Kong shops accept credit cards. Check the credit card slip before signing it and take your receipt before leaving the store.

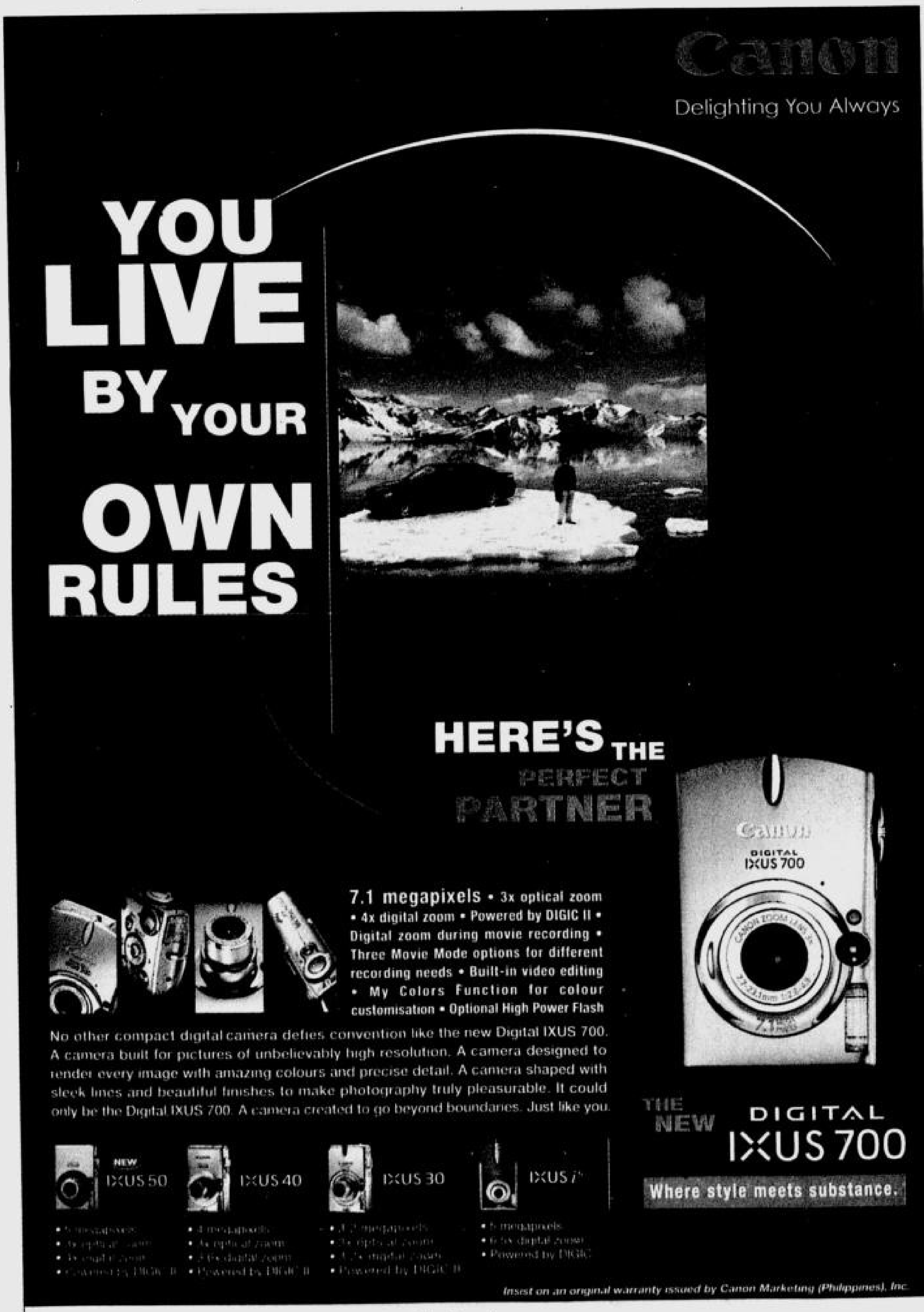
All travel agent members of the Travel Industry Council of Hong Kong, tel. no. (852) 28070707, offer a 100-percent refund guarantee to visitors who patronize shops in tours arranged by travel agents. You are entitled to a full refund within 14 days of purchase, provided the goods sold are returned intact and unused. If you're not satisfied with a purchase during shopping activities arranged by your travel agent, approach your guide for assistance. Don't forget to keep the original copies of your sales receipt.

If you have any problems, keep your receipts and call the Consumer Council Hotline (852) 29292222 for assistance.

In the event of a serious dispute, call the 24-hour Hong Kong Police emergency number 999, or obtain assistance from a nearest police officer.

You can also call the HKTB multilingual Visitor Hotline (852) 25081234 for assistance.

STANLEY Market


Canon
Delighting You Always

YOU LIVE BY YOUR OWN RULES

HERE'S THE PERFECT PARTNER

7.1 megapixels • 3x optical zoom • 4x digital zoom • Powered by DIGIC II • Digital zoom during movie recording • Three Movie Mode options for different recording needs • Built-in video editing • My Colors Function for colour customisation • Optional High Power Flash

No other compact digital camera defies convention like the new Digital IXUS 700. A camera built for pictures of unbelievably high resolution. A camera designed to render every image with amazing colours and precise detail. A camera shaped with sleek lines and beautiful finishes to make photography truly pleasurable. It could only be the Digital IXUS 700. A camera created to go beyond boundaries. Just like you.

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IXUS 40
IXUS 30
IXUS 7

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Canon Marketing (Philippines), Inc. 2F Marvin Plaza, 2153 Don Chino Roces Avenue cor. V.A. Rufino St., Makati City
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VISIT ANY OF OVER 250 KODAK PICTURE MAKER STATIONS TODAY.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No.3451, Series of 2005.

BUKNOY

WIN this Gintong Aklat today! June 29, 2005 Today's Question

Kuwento ni Jose Miguel Tejido
Inilathala ng Adarna House, Inc.

Which National Artist wrote the Rosales novels among which are *Mass* and *Tree*?
A. Nick Joaquin B. Edith Tiempo C. F. Sionil Jose

Pre-register as follows: Text NBDB<space>REG<space>Name<space>Address<space>Age<space>Sex and send to 283 for Smart/Talk 'N Text/Addict Mobile and 2378 for Globe/Touch Mobile.

Text answer as follows: Text NBDB<space>answer and send to 283 for Smart/Talk 'N Text and 2378 for Globe/Touch Mobile.

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Txt Quiz
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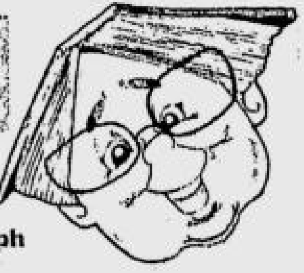
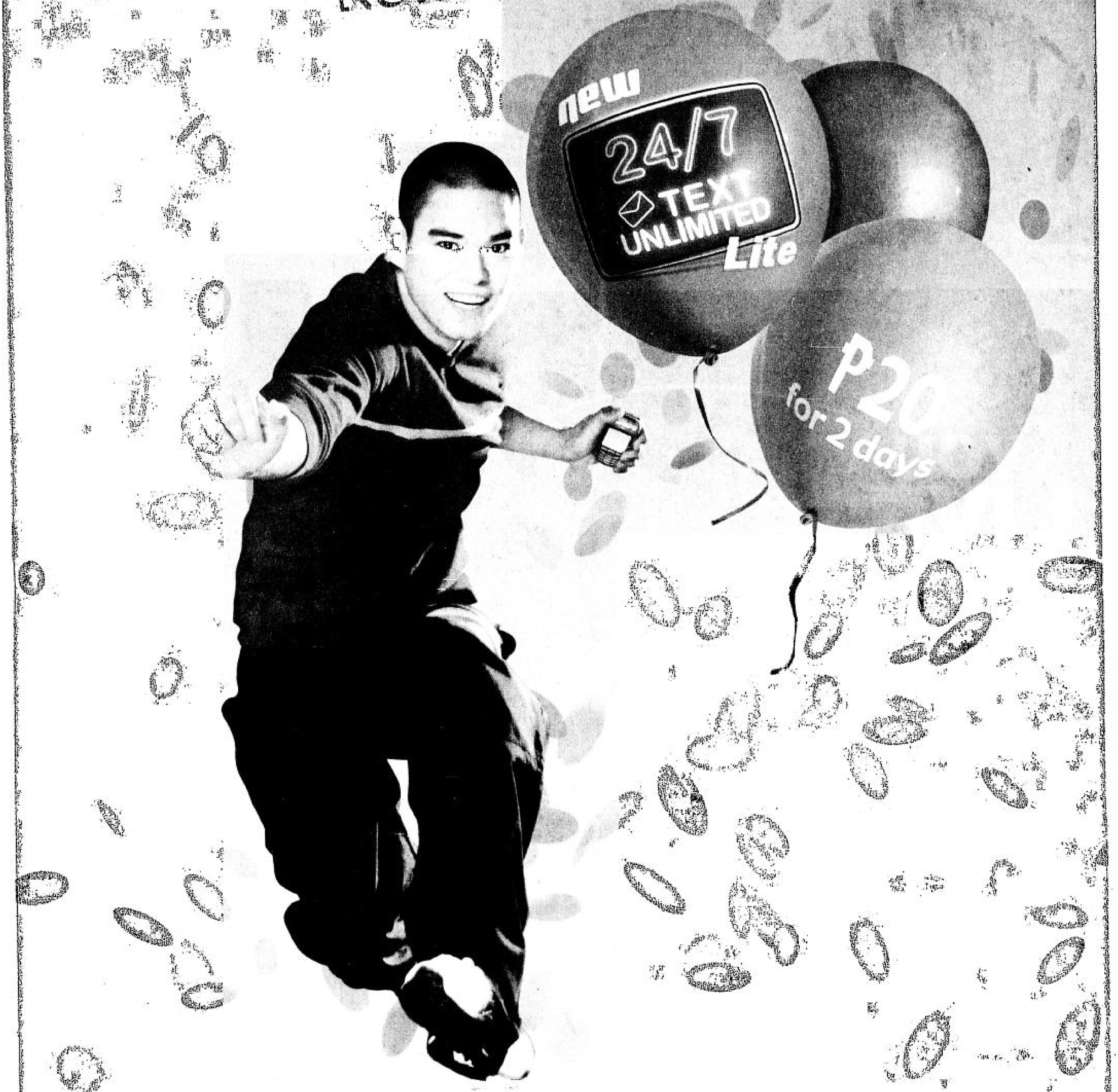


Promo extended until July 15, 2005!

Approved by DTI-NCR

The best 24/7 Text Unlimited service from Sun! Now even lighter at only P20



Load up on 24/7 TEXT UNLIMITED LITE to enjoy round-the-clock texting that's lighter on your budget.

PROMO MECHANICS:

- All active Sun Cellular prepaid subscribers can avail of 24/7 Text Unlimited Lite by loading via text until July 15, 2005.
- Enjoy unlimited local Sun-to-Sun texting for 2 days for only P20. Simply text **TU<space>2** and send to **247**. Texting to 247 is free of charge.
- To load up via text, you will need a minimum of P20 (exclusive of Convert-a-Load) in your account to purchase 24/7 Text Unlimited Lite.
- After texting the keywords to 247, you will receive a text message containing the number series ***220#** followed by a 14-digit number string. Once you receive this, just load up by doing the following:
  - Key in ***220#** followed by the 14-digit number string then the # sign. Ensure that there are no spaces between characters then press SEND.

    OR
  - Dial **220**, press 1 then enter the 14-digit number string.

  Note: For security purposes, it is best to load up immediately after you receive the 14-digit number string.
- Upon loading the number string, you will immediately receive a text message reflecting your updated regular load balance and your 24/7 service validity. This means that 24/7 Text Unlimited Lite has been activated and you can start enjoying the service until it expires. Real-time loading, no need to wait!
- Should your regular balance reach zero after loading up 24/7 Text Unlimited Lite via text, you can only send local Sun-to-Sun texts. For transactions to subscribers on other networks, simply load up a regular Sun Cellular Prepaid call card.
- 24/7 loads have separate & distinct validity periods from regular Sun Cellular Prepaid load and even other 24/7 Call & Text Unlimited and 24/7 Text Unlimited cards.

24/7 UNLIMITED CHOICES

price	validity
P 20	2 days
P 50	7 days
P 150	30 days
P 100	7 days
P 350	30 days

Applicable to local Sun-to-Sun calls & texts.

Better Network. Better Value.

Per DTI-NCR Permit # 1679, Series of 2005.

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PREPAID

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LIFESTYLE

For feedback, e-mail us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Text us your feedback: inquirer 2bu name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

The fare is unfair!

By Saleema Devi Refran
2bU! Correspondent

GONE are the days when I'd make *libre* everyone I know on the jeepney.

As of today, I am digging through my pockets, looking for every peso I have.

I remember my first jeepney ride. I was fresh from high school, giddily nervous about finally having to commute (forgive me, it's the typical *colegiala* syndrome at finally being set free to the world). I'd give the driver P5 and won't even bother to get the change. I'd say it was my tip.

I mean, I understood that drivers needed every centavo they could get, and giving back a peso wasn't too much. But that was back in 2000, the minimum fare was P4 and the Ikot jeepney fare was just P3.75

I remember making *libre* everyone I knew. For P10, a friend and I could travel from one part of the campus to another. If we had another friend tagging along, he/she just added P2 and we'd all have one hell of a ride together.

Today, I rode a jeepney and was asked to pay P7.50. A far cry from the P4 I used to pay in 2000 and to the P5.50 I paid just yesterday. Looks like my days as Santa Claus are over.

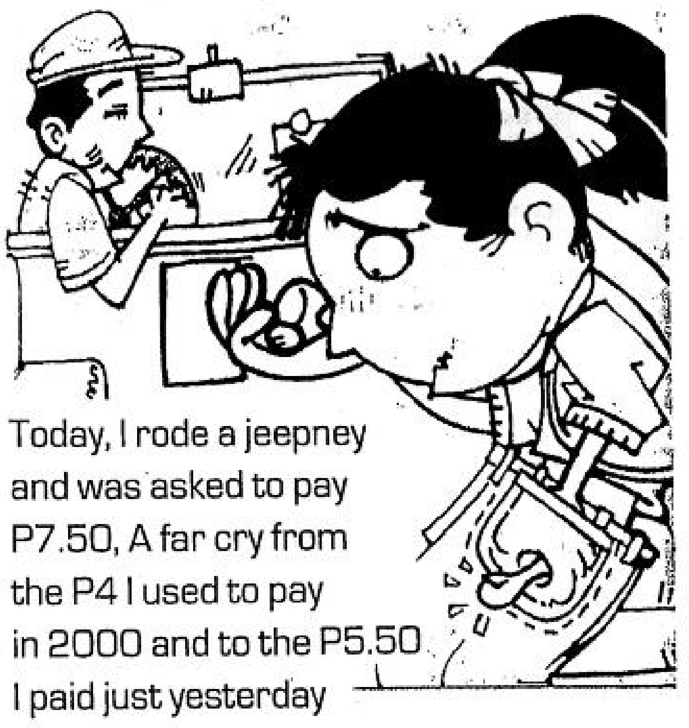
My classmates and I all had a hard time going to school today as we were all shocked by the sudden fare increase. I know there have been announcements on TV and all over radio, but we all didn't expect it this soon. The jeepney we took also didn't have his updated fare matrix on display—a clear violation of what was said on TV that those who still didn't have theirs from the Land Transportation and Franchising Regulatory Board (LTFRB) had no right to collect more than the old P5.50 fare.

It's just sad that we all have to suffer fare hikes even when there are no wage increases. To think that public utility vehicles increased their fares not too long ago. We surely wouldn't mind all of this if we didn't have an increased value-added tax to worry about.

The situation gets worse for students like me. Parents have yet to recover from a new round of tuition increases. And in March next year, a million or so of us will be loitering the streets and paying more than P7.50, looking for jobs.

I just wish the government will see just how much we and our parents are suffering. To think I haven't started with graft and corruption yet.

When commuting, make sure the driver has his fare matrix on display before paying the increased fare. We urge the public to report such violations to the LTFRB. Call 4262505 or 4262515.



Today, I rode a jeepney and was asked to pay P7.50, A far cry from the P4 I used to pay in 2000 and to the P5.50 I paid just yesterday

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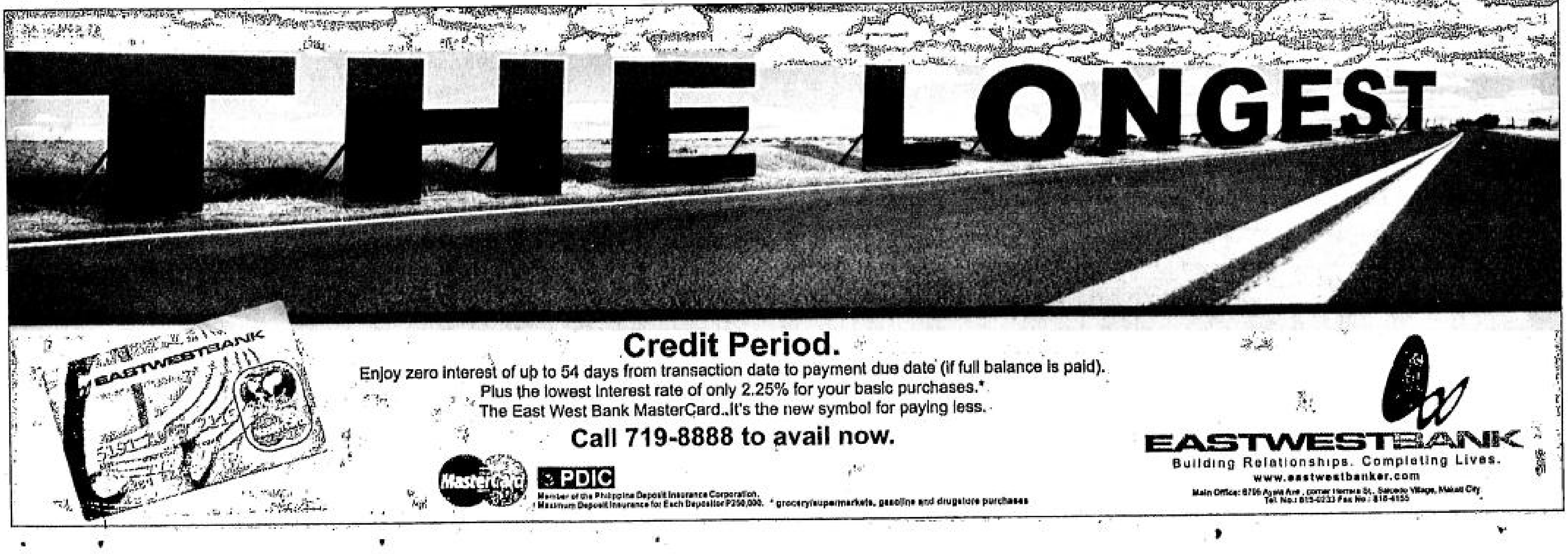

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They've got time on their hands

BIANCA KING
Movies she's busy with: "Hari ng Sablay" and "I Will Always Love You," where she's the original girlfriend of Richard Gutierrez
Career move: She's now a certified "Kapamilya" of ABS-CBN.
Why she loves the watches at NoCurfew: "They're very diverse. I think they have enough to target every market and class there is."
Fave brands from the shop: Storm, Tommy Hilfiger
Type of watch worn: Artistic, weird-looking
Most favorite part of the day: Midnight, "because it's just when the party is about to start."
If time's her friend, she'd: "explore the nicest beaches in the world, like Brazil, Gold Coast again and Greece."
What takes her forever to do: "It takes me a really long time deciding what to wear. And fall asleep. Usually I toss and turn and watch TV."
What she does fast: "Drive! I hate staying behind slow cars. If I can overtake, I overtake, especially in C-5."

APRIL VILLANUEVA
Career update: This "SOP" mainstay is set to release an album under EMI Philippines in August.
On the watches of NoCurfew: "They're really different. They're unique. They really stand out from a lot of the other watches I've seen."
Favorite brand: Storm
Type of watch fancied: "Thick-banded ones, because they stand out onstage."
What she'd do if she had all the time in the world: "I'd stay at an amusement center all day. Ride a rollercoaster all day."
Something that takes her a long time to finish: "Reading a book. I'm not really a book-reader."
If she can position the watch somewhere else: "I like armbands so I'd probably make it like an armband."
Travel time dream: "I'd go back to the '60s and meet the Temptations."
Lifetime goal: "To be a household name. I want people to sing my songs on karaoke."
Current love: Pare, her *shi-tzu*, a birthday gift from "SOP"

SID LUCERO
What's keeping him busy: TV commitments and his DVD player
How special NoCurfew watches are: "I don't wear watches, except these."
Career update: Gearing up for his debut film directed by Lav Diaz
Favorite time of the day: "Night time. Because there's no traffic and it's much cooler."
If he had lots of time: "I'd take my time. Do everything and anything possible."
Takes him a long time to: "Do my chores and replace hamster woodshavings."
Something he does really fast: "Maybe on a belt or on my ankle."
Time travel destination: "Medieval Japan! I'll make katanas and sell them."
Something he wants to do forever: Live
Huge goal: "Build a very comfortable house for me and my family."
Dream family: One son, doesn't matter what's next. Wants three kids.

GEOFF EIGENMANN
Watch out for him in: yet another movie with Heart, and in a soap as a surprise character
In love with: Tommy Hilfiger watches and the leather stuff from Storm
Fave time of the day: "4:20 p.m. Nothing happens at 4:20 p.m. It's my transition time from day to night."
If he can turn back the hands of time, he'd return to: "The day I was born. I wanna remember what it's like coming out, seeing light for the first time, crying for the first time."
If he had lots of time: "I'll travel the world. I'd go to each and every country backpacking. In Amsterdam, Germany and Spain."
How fast he takes a shower: 10 minutes
Something he does in a jiffy: "I eat quick *kaya madami akong nakakain*. I love eating!"
How he wants to wear a watch: As a necklace
Something he'd love to do forever: Wakeboarding
If he had a time machine, he'd: "Meet Jim Morrison and see the Doors live!"

KY
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Fav you
Wh typ Jer wh
Wh *ako*
Wh *kur* kno

THE NOCURFEW models

Faces

By Niño Mark M. Sablan
2bU! Correspondent

THE NOCURFEW watch store launched last June 17 a campaign called "The Six Faces of NoCurfew" at its Edsa Shangri-La Plaza branch.

The "six faces" are Kyla, April Villanueva, Bianca King, Dennis Trillo, Sid Lucero and Geoff Eigenmann.

The campaign, which sums up the store's look and texture for the whole year, is all about simplicity. Laid-back, relaxed, serene and classic are just some of the words that come to mind once you see the images. "Take your time" is the store's slogan, after all.

Captured on film by ph Joachim Bondoc and fabulousl Leo Posadas, the models are ga maculate white, staring straight

According to Jason Alvarez, marketing manager, NoCurfew six artists as celebrity endorse the brand believes they have w to make it. "They're not afraid their dreams, no matter what th said.

NoCurfew is the preference crazy personalities such as Fra lona, Steve Mills, Yasmien Kur Ignacio, Tyrone Perez, The Co

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TV GUIDE

Wednesday, June 29, 2005

LIVE 8 ABC

WORLD'S BIGGEST CONCERT, SATURDAY 10 PM

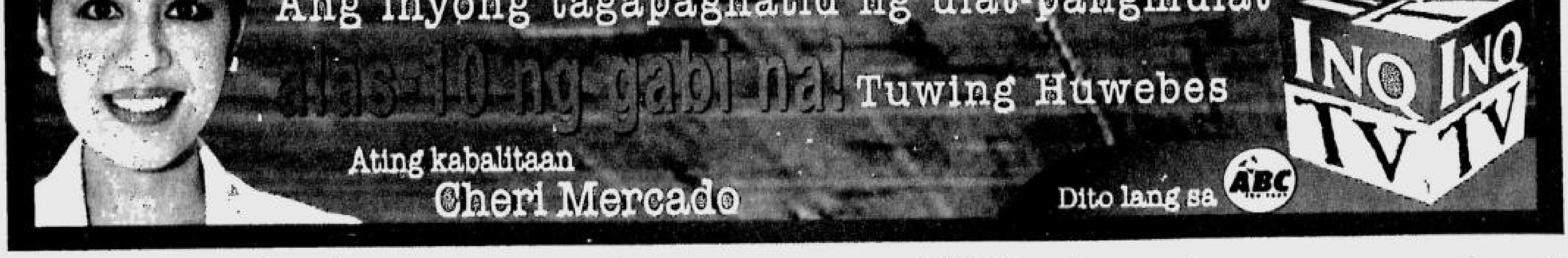
20 years after the biggest performers in the world gathered to "feed the world" on Live Aid, a monumental concert is set to happen in London, Rome, Paris, Berlin and Philadelphia to call on world leaders at the coming G8 Summit to end poverty globally!

"LIVE 8" features stars like Bob Geldof, U2, Madonna, Mariah Carey, Coldplay, Dido, Keane, Elton John, Annie Lennox, Paul McCartney, Sting, REM, Joss Stone, The Cure, A-Ha, Will Smith, Maroon 5, Jon Bon Jovi, P. Diddy, 50 Cent, Jay-Z, Andrea Bocelli and more!

ClickTheCity.com

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema			Pasion de Amor	Showbiz No. 1	Mr. Bean	Naruto	Qpids	TV Patrol World		Meteor Garden Full Edition	Mga Anghel Na Walang Langit	Kampanerang Kuba	Ikaw Ang Lahat Sa Akin	Oh! Feel Young	Yes Yes Show			Insider
ABC 5			EZ Shop		PBA				Sentro	PBA					Big News	Dokyu		ESPN Golf	
GMA 7	Saang Sulok Ng Langit	Now and Forever	Glass Shoes	Tenjho Tenge	Shaman King	Flame Of Recca	Full House	24 Oras		Darna		Encantadia	Extra Challenge		TBA	Nuts Entertainment			Saksi
RPN 9		Metro TV Shopping	Defenders Of The Earth	Hey Arnold!	As Told By Ginger	Wild Thornberrys	Sponge Bob	The Insider	NBA On RPN					Extreme Make-Over		Newswatch Now	Keep up the Good Work w/ Joey Lina		Pangako Mo
IBC 13		EZ Shop		EZ Shop		Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Lifestyle		On Air Tambayan		Dirak	Junior Reyes Report	Bestfriends	Celebrity Single	Retro TV	IBC News Tonite	Breaking Barriers	
JackTV	Banzai	X-Men	Justice League	Wwe Raw				Filler	Just For Laughs	Mad TV		Dr. Katz	Premium Blend	Shorties Watching Shorties	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Mad TV		The 5th Show	Street Smarts
Nickelodeon	Blues Clues	Rugrats	The Fairly Odd Parents	Cow At The Moo-vies	All That	Are You Afraid of the Dark?	100 Deeds of Eddie McDowd	The Amanda Show	The Adventures Jimmy Neutron	Fairly Odd Parents	SpongeBob SquarePants	As Told By Ginger	Yakkity Yak	Chalkzone	Rocket Power	Hey Arnold!	The Wild Thornberrys	The Angry Beavers	Rugrats
MYX	MYX Finals	Urban MYX	MYX Backtrax	Pop MYX	My MYX	Take 5	OPM MYX	Mellow MYX	Rock MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		Pop MYX	Urban MYX	MYX Live!		My MYX	MYX Backtrax	OPM MYX	Mellow MYX
ETC		Committed	Knock First	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Eliminidate	Change of Heart	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	Complete Savages	What I Like About You	Veronica Mars		Last Comic Standing		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
Cinema One		Eskola Mondragon				Babangon Ako't Dudurugin Kita				Carta Alas			Persona	Calvento Files (9:15 PM)				Urian Awards 2005	
Studio 23						Super Gals		Batman Beyond	Beyblade	Wazzup Wazzup	Mutant X	C.S.I. (8:15 PM)		Las Vegas		News Central	Oprah		Just Shoot Me
AXN		The Amazing Race 6		Next Action Star		Ripley's Believe It or Not		The Associates		Alias (Season III)		Maximum Exposure (Season I)		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (Season 5)		Fear Factor (Season V)		CSI: NY (Season I)	
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful		Hollywood Squares	Home Improvement	Buffy The Vampire Slayer		The Simpsons	The Drew Carey Show	Star News Asia	Friends	One Tree Hill		The Practice		JAG		Friends	One Tree Hill
CNN		Business International		Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	Business International		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		Your World Today	
National Geographic		Showreal Asia		Lost Chance Journeys		The Sea Hunters		Wildlife Detectives	Insects From Hell	Wow		About Asia		Nat'l Geographic Specials		Showreal Asia		Deep Jungle	
Solar Sports														2005 NBA Draft					
Lifestyle Network	Country Style	Interiors By Design	Decorating With Style	Decorating Cents	Molto Mario	Sweet Dreams	30 Minute Meals	Bill Boggs Corner	Unwrapped	Wolfgang Puck's	E! Entertainment Special 9 Celebrity Yearbook		You're Invited	Life & Style		Style Star	Nigella Bites II	Breathing Room	Genuine Article
HBO	Time Of The Wolf			Let's Get Harry (4:05 PM)			Adam Sandler's Eight Crazy Nights			Fatal Attraction (7:05 PM)				The Lord Of The Rings: The Two Towers					
Star Movies			Go			Kaena: The Prophecy			First Knight (6:40 PM)					Critical Assembly			Barb Wire		
Cartoon Network	Scooby-Doo Show	The All New Popeye Show		Tom & Jerry Show	The Woody Woodpecker Show	X-Men Evolution	Static Shock	Mucha Lucha!	Megas XLR	Zoids Fusion	Medabots	The Looney Tunes Show		The Powerpuff Girls	Dexter's Laboratory	Time Squad	Thundercats	Mucha Lucha!	Megas XLR
ESPN		U.S. Open Golf Champ Pinehurst, NC USA								U.S. Open Golf Champ		Sportscenter Asia	World Snooker Tour Embassy World Champs						Sportscenter Asia
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Un-talkative Bunny	So Little Time	Buzz Lightyear Star Command	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	House Of Mouse	Recess: Taking The 5th Grade			So Little Time	Sabrina, The Animated Series	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Chip N Dale's Rescue Rangers	George Of The Jungle 2	
Cinemax			The Man Who Knew Too Much				Tough Luck (6:45 PM)				When Trumpets Fade			Japanese Story			Beverly Hills Cop (10:45PM)		
Hallmark Channel	Who's The Boss	Missing		HCA: The Fairytaler	Sesame Street		Mad About You	Who's The Boss	The Nanny	Sue Thomas: F.B. Eye		Missing		Tuesdays With Morrie			Strong Medicine (10:35PM)		Sue Thomas: F.B. Eye
Discovery Channel		Science Mysteries		Science Frontiers		Wolf Battlefields		Wild Weather		Global Flyer		First Time Film Makers	Hour China	Mythbusters		Extraordinary Experiences: The Vale Of Rajasthan		Hour Asia	
MTV Philippines			Hangin Out at MTV		MTV Get Spotted		TRL		Backstreet Boys Incomplete	MTV Divas		Wade Robson	Dismissed	Boiling Point	Pimp My Ride	On Board at MTV	Making the Movie Sin City	VH1 Video Collection	
Sports Plus				This Is The PGA Tour		Get A Grip On Golf	Golf Globe '03		Monster Jam		French Open '05 Finals				SD 14	Live Match Boxing			

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.



Ang inyong tagapaghatid ng ulat-pangmulat
alas-10 ng gabi na! Tuwing Huwebes
Ating kabalitaan
Cheri Mercado
Dito lang sa ABC
INQ TV

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LA
with: promoting
epackaged "Not
Ordinary Girl" al-
and her single "Til
Take My Heart
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ch out for: another
m due early next

**urfew watches she
res:** Tissot, Storm, Tommy Hilfiger
of watch she likes wearing: "Very stylish,
chunky and classic"
cial time of the day: "10 a.m. *Dun ako
igising, kumakain at nagmumunimuni*
orite age she wants to relive: 16. "You can be
rself. *Lahat maganda, masaya!*"
at she'd do if time was on her side: Write all
is of songs and visit places. "Paris, Rome,
isalem, New York. Oh gosh, *lahat!* Every-
ere!"
at takes her a long time to do: "*Matagal
ng magbihis!*"
at she wants to do forever: Sing. "*Gusto kong
nanta nang kumanta*. That's the only thing I
w best."

DENNIS TRILLO

Where you'll see him next: A horror movie in November and in "Mulawin" the movie

NoCurfew brands he digs: Tissot, Tommy Hilfiger, Storm

Type of watch he likes wearing: "Classy and sporty"

Fave time of the day: Midnight, when he's super hyper and is just starting doing most stuff

Age he wants to relive: 6 years old, when he didn't have any problems and all he did was play

What he'd do with all the time in the world: "World tour." He's been around Asia and wants to go to the United States, primarily California.

How fast he is: "*Mabilis akong kumilos.*"

Person he'd love to meet if he could turn back time: Stanley Kubrick

On being chosen as an endorser for NoCurfew: "Lucky."

# of time

Fashionable show biz personalities reflect fashion-forward timepieces

Text and photos by Niño Mark M. Sablan
2bUI Correspondent

OF COURSE, they're not really new. Each of "The Six Faces of NoCurfew" is a staple of television. Some of them even have billboards of their own. But with their just-got-out-of-the-shower (or parlor) looks, exhilarating personalities and ever-changing styles, their faces are not tiring. They are always new. They are always fresh. It's time to get to know them a little more.

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NoCurfew
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di, Dionne
pany and
Ella Mae Saison, among many others.

And who can blame them? It is the exclusive Philippine distributor of Citizen, OHM, Tommy Hilfiger, Time Force, Storm, Tissot, Circa and OHM Xonix.

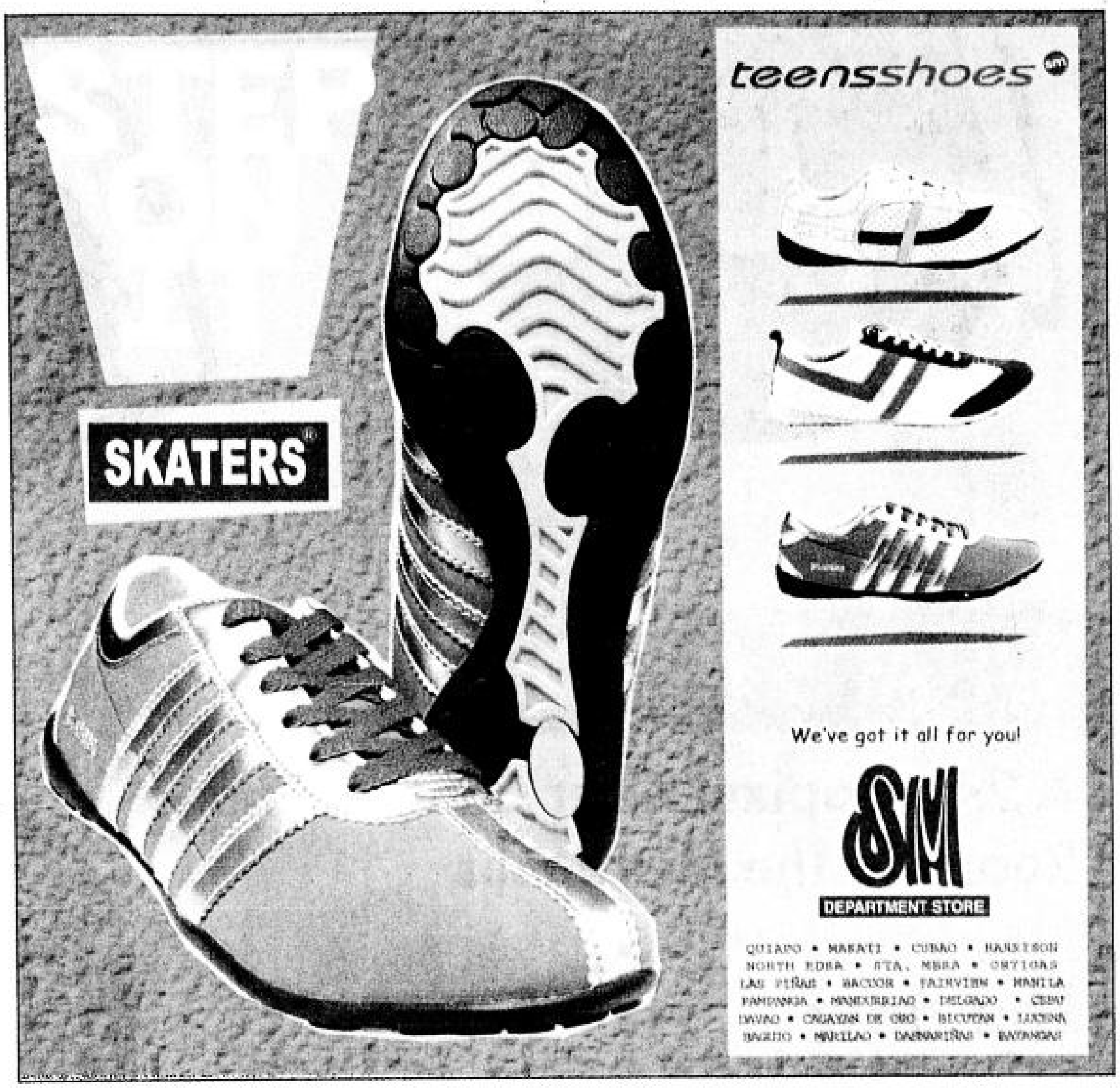
Even international A-listers such as David Beckham, Angelina Jolie, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Robbie Williams and Tom Cruise are huge fans of the brands.

The store offers only Swiss and Japanese watch lines, since they are regarded as the finest in the whole world. Each timepiece resonates character, attitude and style.

And don't you dare underestimate NoCurfew's staff because they fully know and understand each and every brand.

So if you're a young urbanite who instantly goes cuckoo upon the sight of cool watches, it's time to head to NoCurfew now.

NoCurfew watch stores are at Shangri-La Plaza, Farmer's Plaza (Araneta Center), Market! Market! (The Fort), SM Manila, SM City Marilao, SM City Pampanga, SM City Iloilo, SM City Cagayan de Oro and SM City Davao. It has also kiosks in SM department store Makati and North Edsa, Limketkai Mall in Cagayan de Oro City and Podium.



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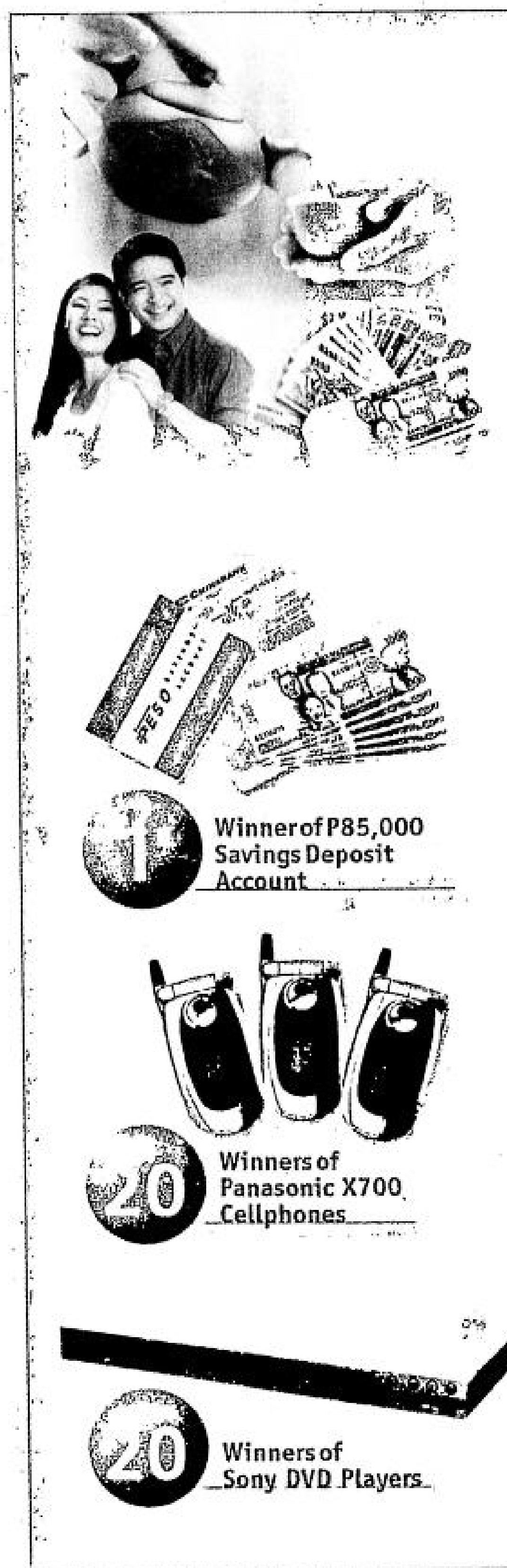
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20 Winners of Panasonic X700 Cellphones
20 Winners of Sony DVD Players
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Malabon - Potrero

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Legaspi Village - C. Palanca
2. FB Office & School Supplies
Gil Puyat
3. Castro, Candilaria Lopez
Valencia
4. Bueno, Enrique Zapanta and/or Bueno, Angeles Madduma
Visayas Ave.
5. Vibrant Manufacturing Co., Inc.
SM City Bicutan
6. Tan, Simeon N. &/or Kathe T.
Parañaque - Dr. A. Santos Avenue
7. Lim, Arsenio G. &/or Irene L.
Kalookan
8. Tay Liong Kian &/or Victoria S. Tay &/or Paul S. Tay
Davao - Recto
9. Go, Reynaldo Co
Cebu - SM City
10. Autida, Rosalina and/or Bacomo Felrose A.
Davao - Bajada
11. Villanueva, Arsenio Ferrera &/or Villanueva, Gloria Garcia &/or Eng, Rosario Vilanueva
Pasay-Libertad
12. Saturn Cement Marketing Corporation
Binondo Business Center
13. Asian Baptist Clearinghouse, Inc.
Ortigas Center
14. Alimpia, Ruby Bautista
Legaspi Village - Salcedo
15. Sapmer Merchandising & Plumbing Supply
T. Alonzo
16. Burgos, Luwalhati Manaig &/or Burgos, Serapio Jr. Manalo
Pasay-Libertad
17. Armak Motors Corporation
San Pablo City
18. Cordillera Overseas Contract Workers & Families Multi-Purpose Coop.
Baguio City
19. Moneyline Lending Investors, Inc.
Salcedo Village -Tordesillas
20. Brain, Maurice H. &/or Brain, Nelia A.
Ormoc City

Winners of SONY DVD PLAYERS
1. CITIBANK N.A.
Makati Main
2. Villman Computer System (Cab. City) Inc.
Cabanatuan - Maharlika
3. Yuchengco, Vivian Sycip &/or Locsin, Margarita Yuchengco
Makati Main
4. Barnedo, Wilmar Javier
Malabon-Potrero
5. Sy, Rosalinda Manguilimotan &/or Sy, Benjamin E. &/or Sy, Annabelle M. &/or Sy, Donald M.
Cebu - Magallanes
6. Tan, Angel S.
Cebu - Magallanes
7. Alpha Interiors/Cynthia H. Picones
Ortigas Center
8. Liggayu, Pastor Yonamine
SM North Edsa
9. Crown Mill Supply Ent. Inc.
Kalookan
10. Capital Forest Corporation
Legaspi Village - Salcedo
11. Dy Sun, Ma. Rosario &/or Dy Sun, Alberto &/or Dy Sun, J. Victory &/or Ong, Donelcio
Cebu - Mandaue
12. Grand Asia Capital Corporation
SM - Megamall
13. Fu Yan Kai &/or Quizon, Josephine Zulueta
Pasay - Libertad
14. De Borja, Irma Viola
Makati Main
15. Ke-doods Enterprises Velasco Patricio Maduro
Las Piñas
16. Yu, Rodolfo D. or Teresita Yu
Cabanatuan City
17. SBMF International Marketing Inc.
Visayas Avenue
18. Santos, Alicia Punzalan &/or Torres, Ofelia Razon
Blumentritt
19. Ong, Erlinda Reyes
Arranque
20. Asturias Farms, Inc.
Cebu - Magallanes

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'Astig' movie soundtrack

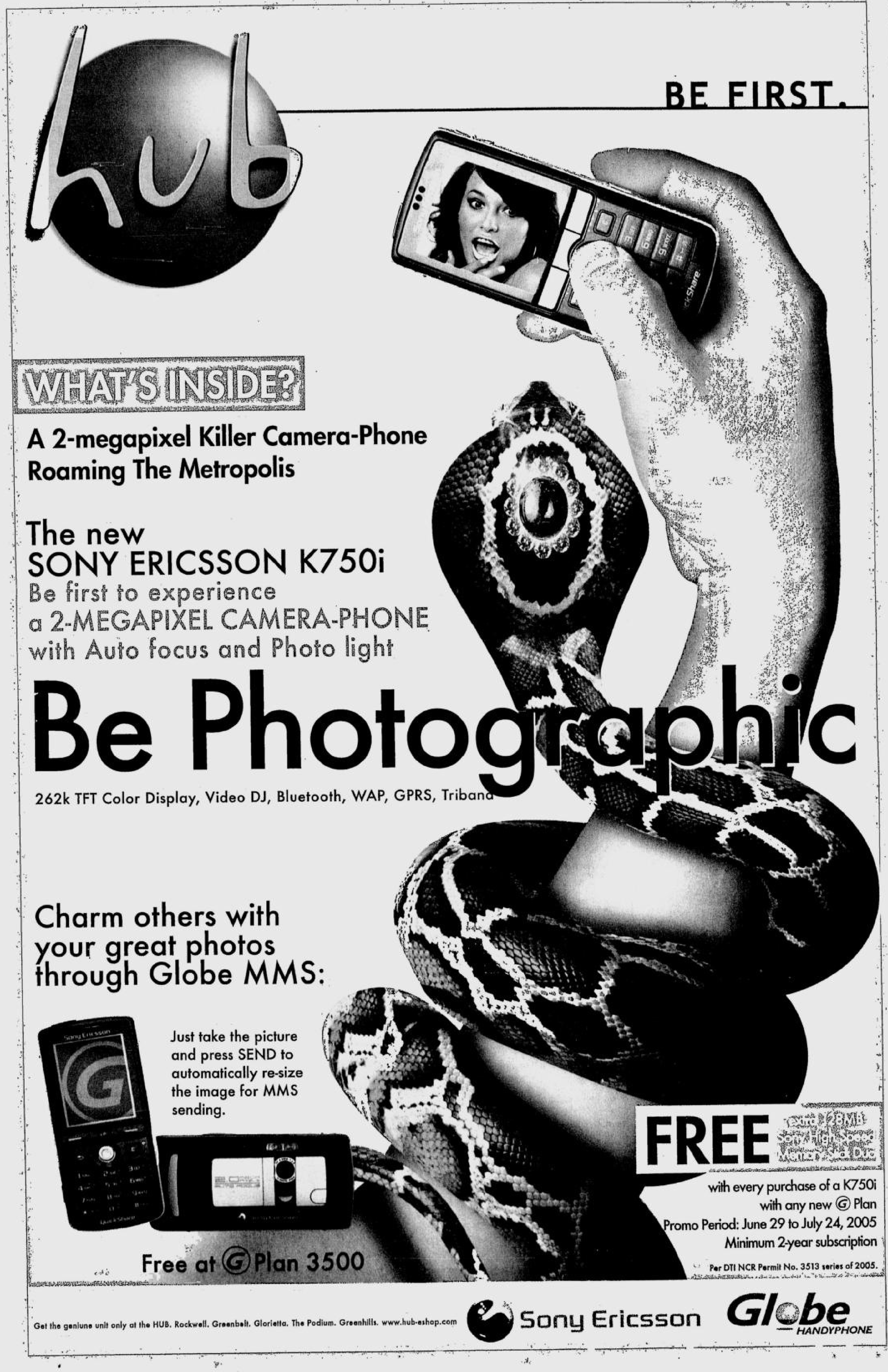
TIRED of seeing the same type of Pinoy films accompanied by cheesy soundtracks? Unitel Pictures dares to break the mold with its latest offering, "Pinoy/Blonde." Directed by Peque Gallaga, the movie stars Boy2 and Epi Quizon and is backed up by the most rockin' soundtrack in Pinoy film history—Bamboo, Twisted Halo, Sugarfree, Kapatid, and Kjwan, among many others. Unitel is throwing a free concert featuring some of the soundtrack bands on July 1 at the Podium driveway. Festivities start at 8:30 p.m.

Imperial Brass Ensemble in Manila

THE RENOWNED Imperial Brass from London is set to visit Manila for a series of performances from June 29-July 3 upon the invitation of the Aurelio Periquet Jr. Foundation (APJF). The ensemble is made up of performers from Imperial College London and the Royal College of Music. One of its founding members is Filipino talent Alaric Saludo, great grandson of National Artist for Music, Lucresia Kasilag.

The Imperial Brass' performances start with an already sold-out concert today at St. Scholastica's College. The gala performance will be on July 1, 6 p.m., at the Isla Ballroom of the Edsa Shangri-La. The final concert will be on July 2, 6 p.m. at the Philam Life Auditorium.

Call 5339338 and 5355428, or text 0918XINTALA (0918-9468252).



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REBAP
Magazine 2nd Edition
A special supplement on the real-estate industry

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Taking steps for a better real estate industry

By Joel V. Nigos

AT THE start of the year, the Real Estate Brokers Association of the Philippines has come up with plans and programs which seek to maximize the benefits its member-brokers would get with the current upswing of the real estate industry.

These plans and programs include the formation of new chapters as well as recruitment of new members, the use of information technology in going about their business and the continuous education of members. Rebap is also supporting a bill in Congress which would regulate the profession of real estate brokers.

House Bill No. 1081

Rebap National president Cherith Domingo explains that House Bill No. 1081 seeks to regulate the profession of real estate brokers. The bill, which is now on second reading, would require all real estate transactions to pass through licensed brokers. It would also seek to transfer the regulatory agency that handles brokers from the current Department of Trade and Industry to the Professional Regulation Commission.

"With the new regulations when this bill becomes a law, non-licensed brokers would be obliged to get licenses and be a member of broker organizations. And since buyers and sellers should pass through a licensed broker in all their real estate transactions, they would be discouraged to deal with non-licensed brokers. This is good for the industry because this way the interests of everybody would be protected," she says.

The proposed bill would be one of the major issues which would be discussed at Rebap's 2nd General Membership Meeting being held today at the Prestige Tower in Mandaluyong City.

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Urban planning bill

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon is the event's guest speaker. The senator is also the author of a related bill in the Senate which seeks to decentralize the functions of the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB).

TAKING/P.4

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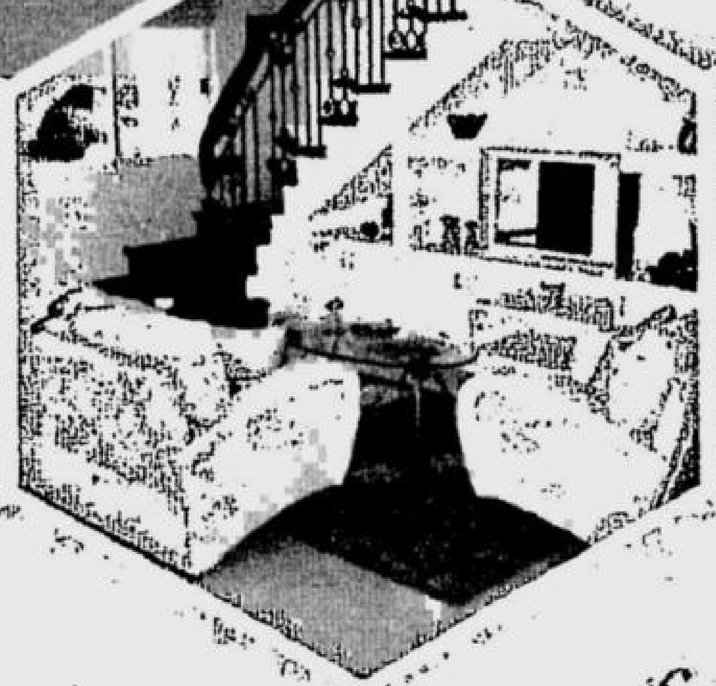

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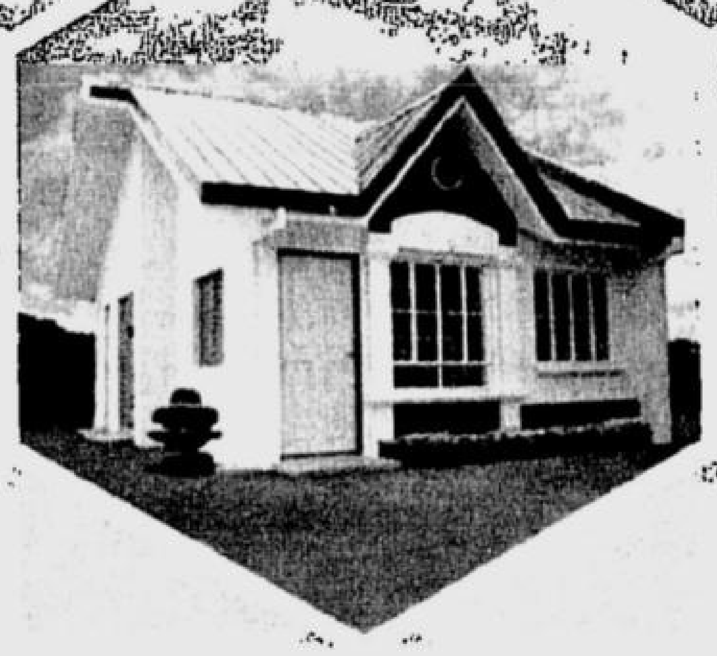

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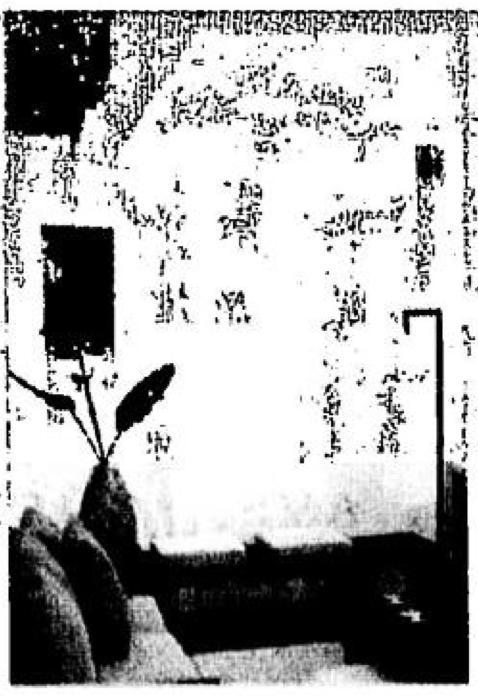

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Taking steps...

From page I

"This is Sen. Biazon's urban planning bill in the Senate. When passed into law, all projects for approval would no longer pass through the HLURB, a national agency. A board in each municipality or city would be formed to perform the same function of the national agency," explains Cherith.

Rebap is supporting Sen. Biazon's bill since it would provide enough leeway to each city and municipality in planning their respective areas. Rebap believes that with this setup, approval of applications would also be faster.

"What we're just suggesting is to add a representative in the board coming from the real estate industry. Rebap believes that a representative coming from the industry is needed in the board since the practitioners are the ones who know the ins and outs of the real estate business," she says.

The proposed bill only has the mayor, vice mayor and the city engineeer composing the board.

Membership, new chapters

Meanwhile, Rebap is well ahead of its planned increase of 20 percent of its membership. With just halfway into the year, the organization has already achieved its target, says Danny Santos, Rebap National chairman and also head of its chapter formation and membership committees.

Rebap has been actively recruiting members as well as reviving and creating new chapters since the beginning of the year. Among those recently reactivated is the La Union chapter, a proponent of the Baguio chapter, which earlier committed to form three new chapters. Beside La Union, the others are Tarlac (reactivated already) and Dagupan, with its formation ongoing. Chapter creation in the area is headed by Rebap national director Freddie Gonzales and Lorie Haber, Baguio chapter president. Both the Tarlac and La Union chapters had held their general membership meetings.

Next in line for formation are Tagaytay, Dasmariñas (Cavite), Palawan, and another one in the area of Lucena and Sariaya in Quezon.

Rebap has various chapters in Metro Manila which include Greenhills, Makati, Manila, Mandaluyong, Pasig, Quezon City, Caloocan City, Global City, Central Business District, Lamp (Las Piñas, Alabang, Muntinlupa and Parañaque), Marikina and Rizal.

Its provincial chapters include Pampanga, Baguio, Laguna, Bacolod, General Santos, Legazpi and Naga.

National Convention

The Rebap national leadership is also actively visiting various chapters in the provinces in its effort to reach out to them. Domingo says that they have gone to Legazpi and Naga in the first quarter of the year and Cebu and Bacolod this month.

The visits are also in preparation for the upcoming Rebap National Convention which will be held at the Villa Caceres Hotel in Naga City. The convention, held annually during the last week of November, is expected to be attended by more member-brokers as each seek to benefit from Rebap's plans and programs which hopes to maximize the gain brought about by the rebound of the property sector.

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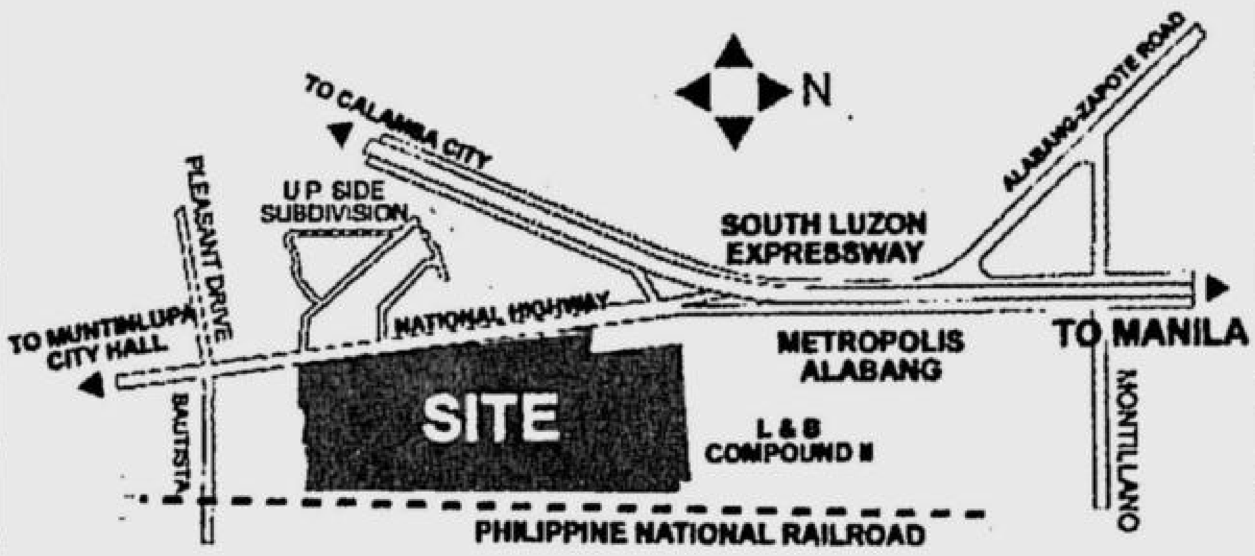
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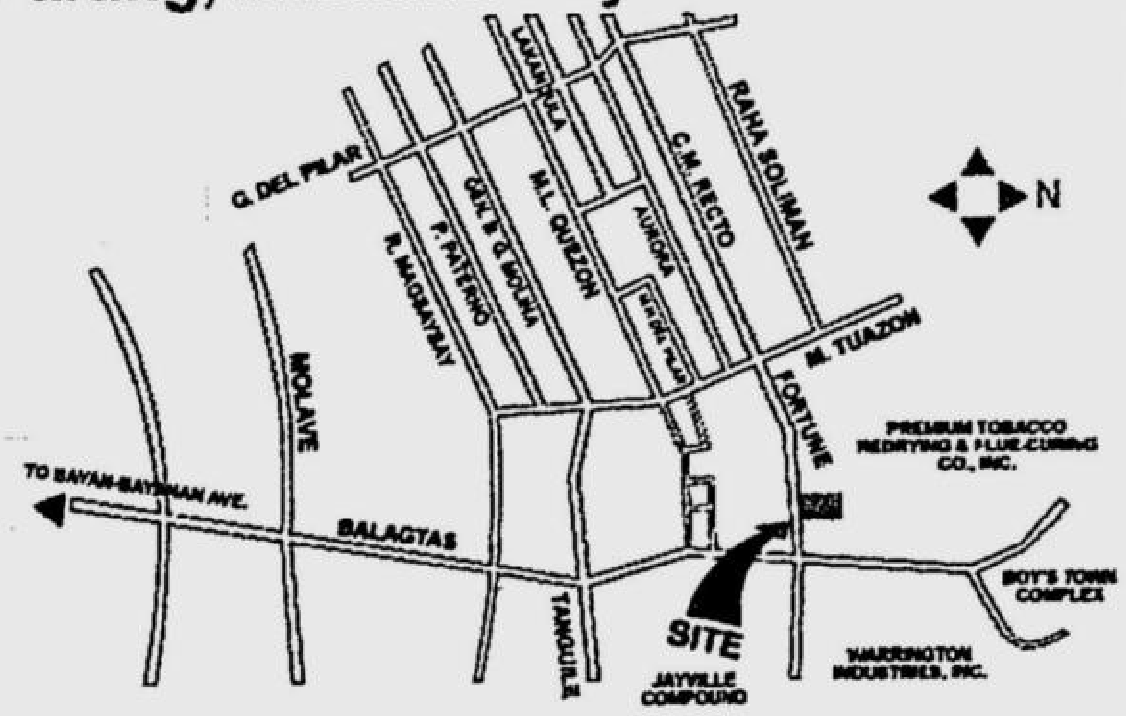
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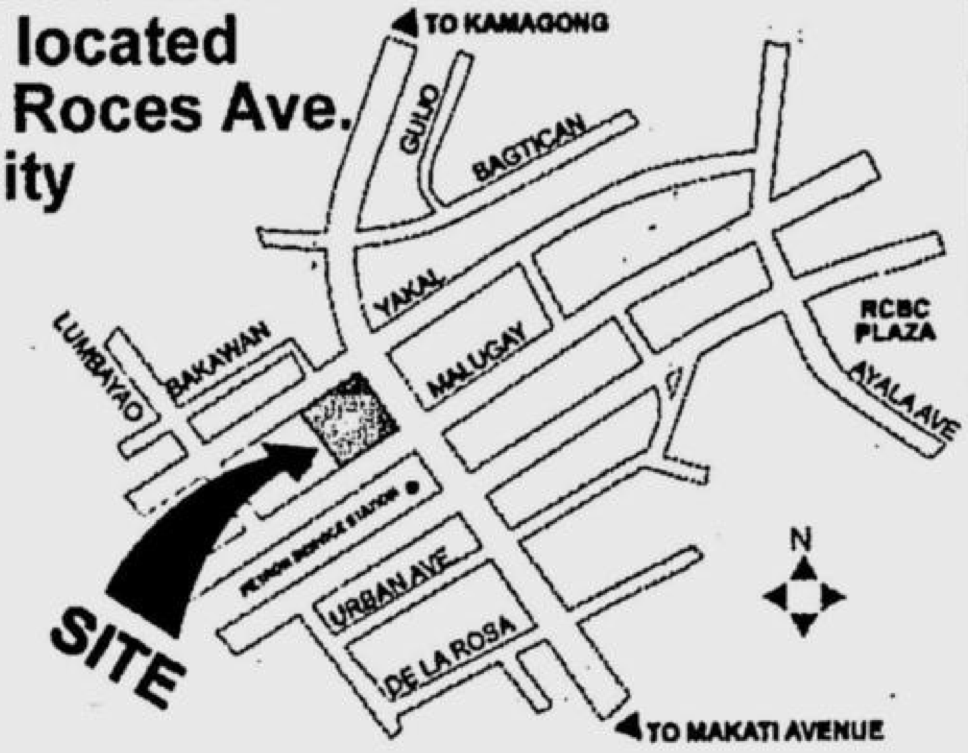
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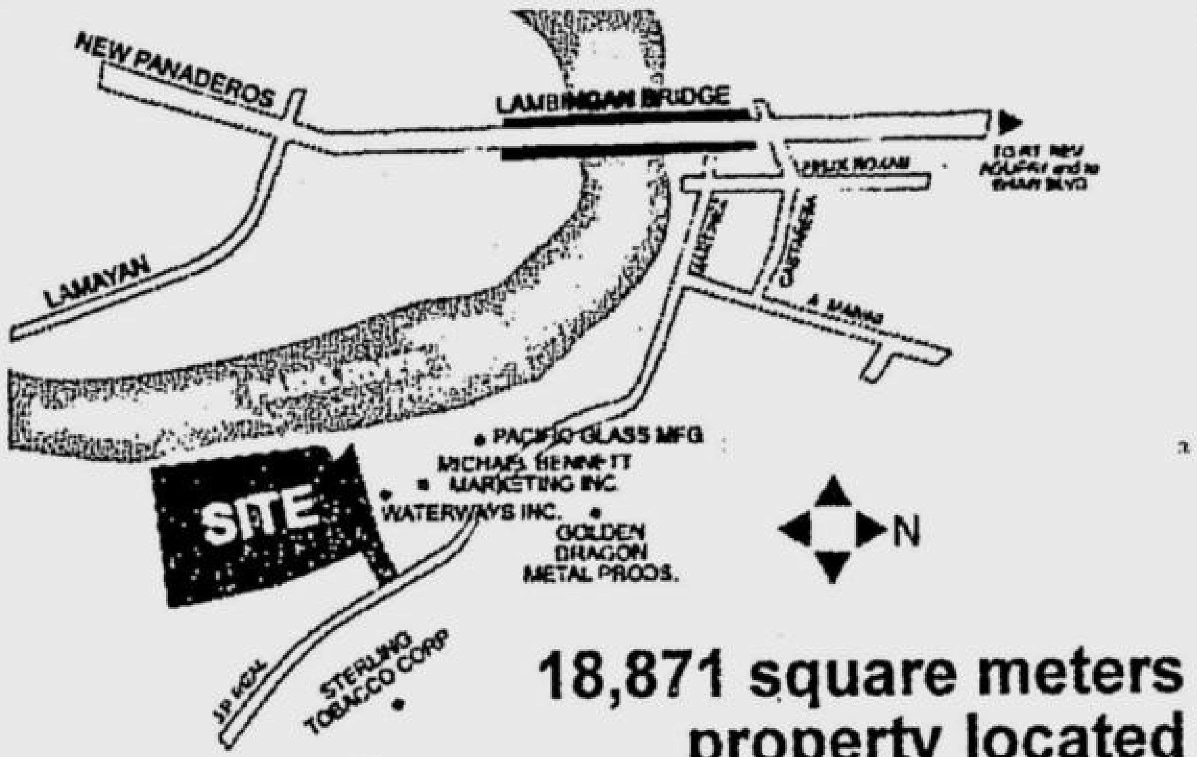
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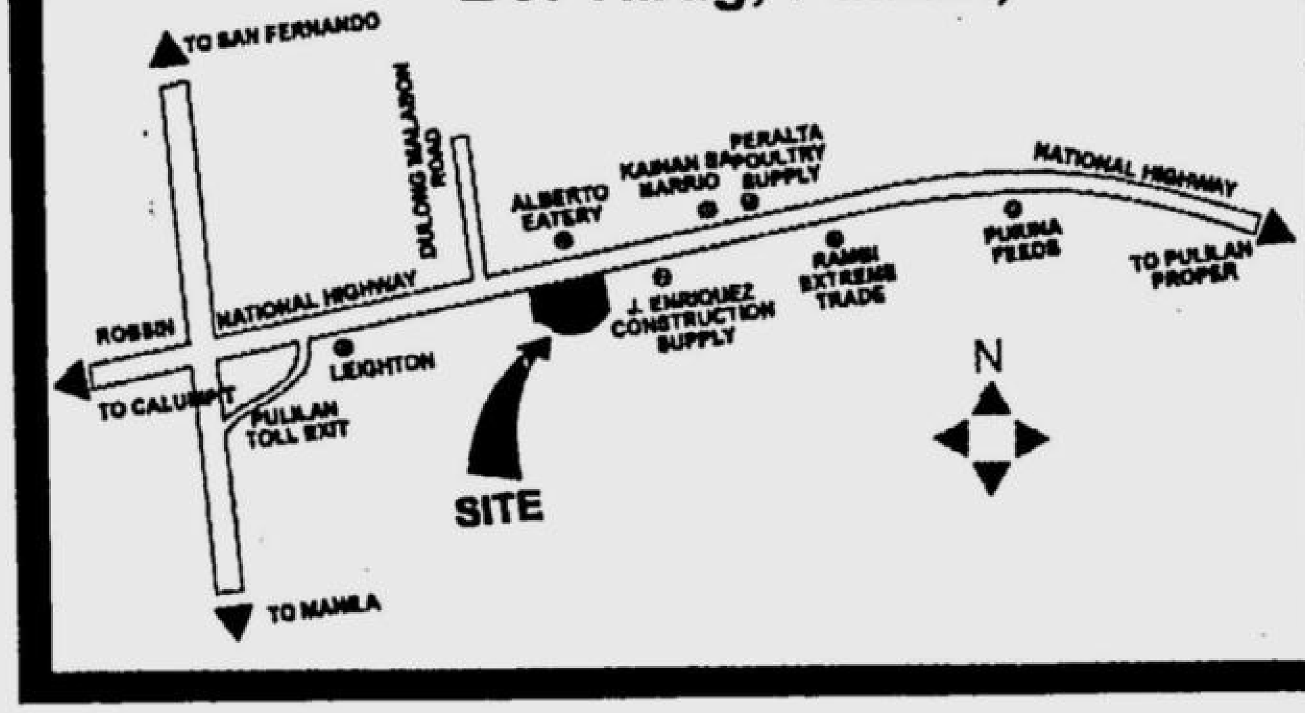
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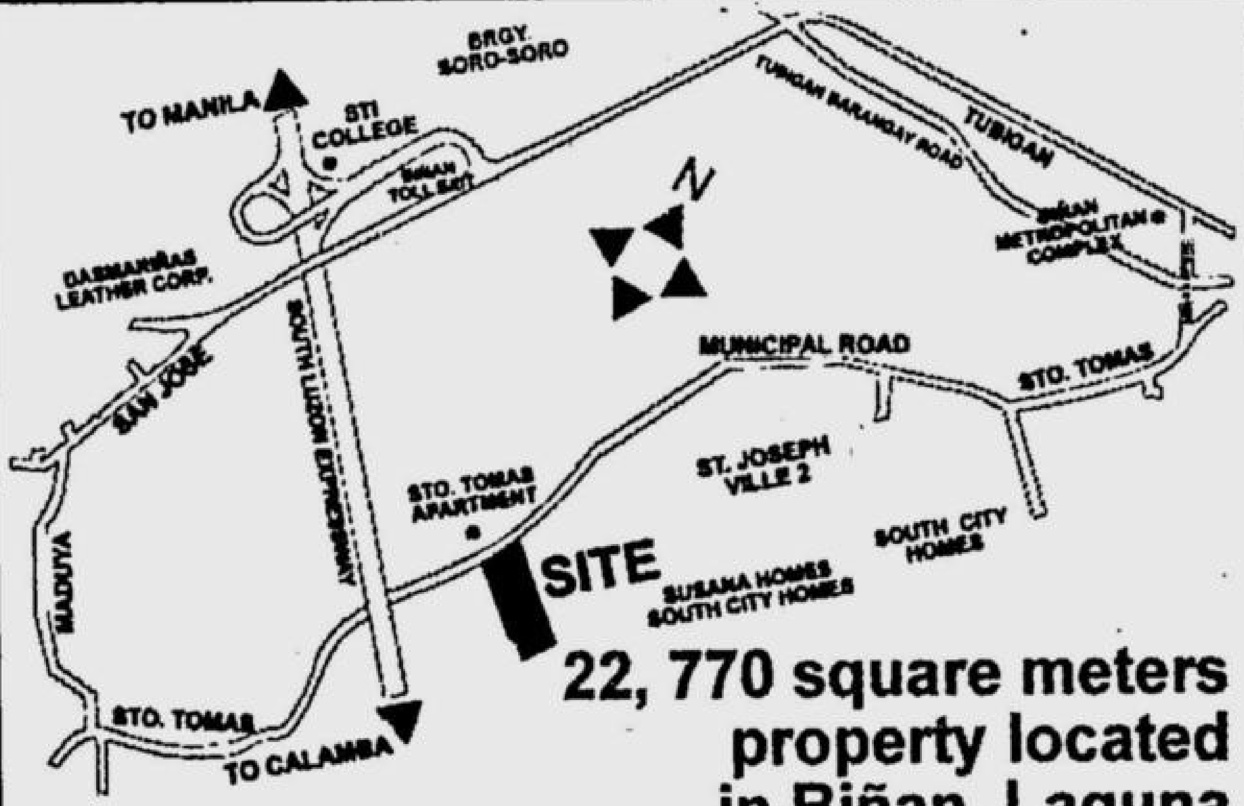
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Villa-Flor Village's lot sizes ranges from One Hundred (100) – Three Ninety-three (393) square meters for the residential area at a reasonable price of Nine Thousand Pesos (P9,000.00) per square meter, while Lot sizes ranges from One Hundred Fifteen (115) – Six Hundred Thirty-Seven (637) square meters for the commercial area at a reasonable price of Eleven Thousand Pesos (P11,000.00) per square meter.

Three clusters consisting of four residential townhouse units are also available in Villa-Flor Village. Regular units' lot area is 60 square meters, while its total usable area consists of 108 square meters, including three bedrooms, family room, kitchen, dining room, laundry area, garage and fence. End units' lot area is 80 square meters, while its total usable area consists of 133 square meters, including 3 bedrooms, family room, kitchen, dining room, laundry area, 2 car garage and fence.

Villa-Flor Village is exclusively marketed by F. S. Dulalia Realty, which welcomes Brokers and Agents to join its sales efforts. F. S. Dulalia Realty can be reached at (02) 927-0620; 929-2731; Telefax: 928-6517; 0920-962-29-39 (Jex).

City living made better

AT A TIME when possessing a house today seemed far out of reach for many Pinoys, what with the sky-rocketing costs of condominiums and townhouses, the Torre Venezia condominium in progressive Quezon City offers a welcome alternative for everyone who have long dreamed of a home they can call their own.

The trend now is the rent-to-own concept wherein Pinoys don't need to toil for years and years paying for house rent they can never own in the future. With the rent-to-own condominiums, Filipinos know their hard-earned money is going to a solid investment—a house.

Unlike before where clients have to pay the whole bulk or half of the condominium's cost, today they can avail of a lot of other payment schemes for easy payments.

It was on this concept that Torre Venezia, a 27-storey commercial and residential building ensconced right in the heart of Quezon City, was built.

According to Rudy Guinhawa, CEO of 24K Development and Construction Corp., more Filipinos are now prioritizing buying a house on top of everything else.

"There's an uptrend in the real estate industry today because more people realize they would want to invest more in owning a house instead of cars and other stuff. They also have been looking at where their rental budget goes. They are more practical now. They want to own a house that is affordable and yet can offer the best of city living. At Torre Venezia, you get the best of both worlds," Guinhawa enthused.

Torre Venezia, touted as the landmark to give Timog the reputation it deserves is situated right in the heart of Quezon City and is very near the lively restaurant scene in Tomas Morato.

Hospitals, market and even the MRT station are even a stone's throw away from Torre Venezia.

For residents who don't feel like going out to the gym or fetch their kids from the day care center, the Torre Venezia has these establishments. It also has a coffee shop inside where one can simply have coffee and hang out.

There are also several floors of commercial/office units for individuals who want to invest and do business right where they live and companies that need prime locations for their businesses.

"Torre Venezia is basically self-contained. The condominium has a swimming pool, chapel and even a pre-school. For fitness buffs, there's a gym inside the condo," Guinhawa said.

Parking is also a breeze as Torre Venezia has a built-in multi-level parking.

Most importantly, Torre Venezia provides a round-the-clock security for residents.

Security has become an important concern for many buyers as recent news of lax security in other condominiums had posed danger to residents.

But the good news is more on the payment scheme available to buyers. There are lots of financial options to own a unit or more at Torre Venezia.

Just how receptive are buyers to Torre Venezia?

"To date, 65 percent of the total units have already been sold," Guinhawa said.

"Most of those of who have reserved condo units are doctors from nearby hospitals and network employees and executives, as Torre Venezia is very near the two giant networks," Guinhawa said.

He noted that Torre Venezia appeals to buyers, even those living in Makati or Manila because it is not as congested as those two areas.

"If you are living in Quezon City, there's always this sense of calm, it's relaxing unlike in other areas which are constricting, here you can actually breathe fresh air, the roads are wider, there's no traffic," Guinhawa said.

He said it all boils down to one thing—city living made better.

"It's like a hassle-free kind of living, you don't have to deal with so many residential problems," Guinhawa said.

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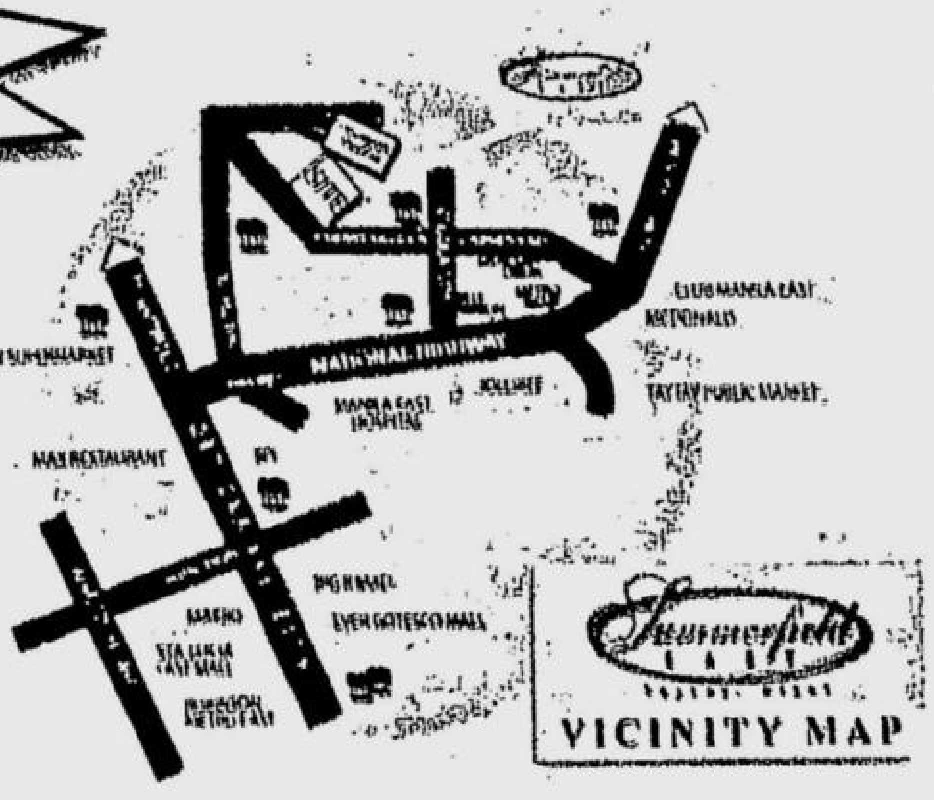
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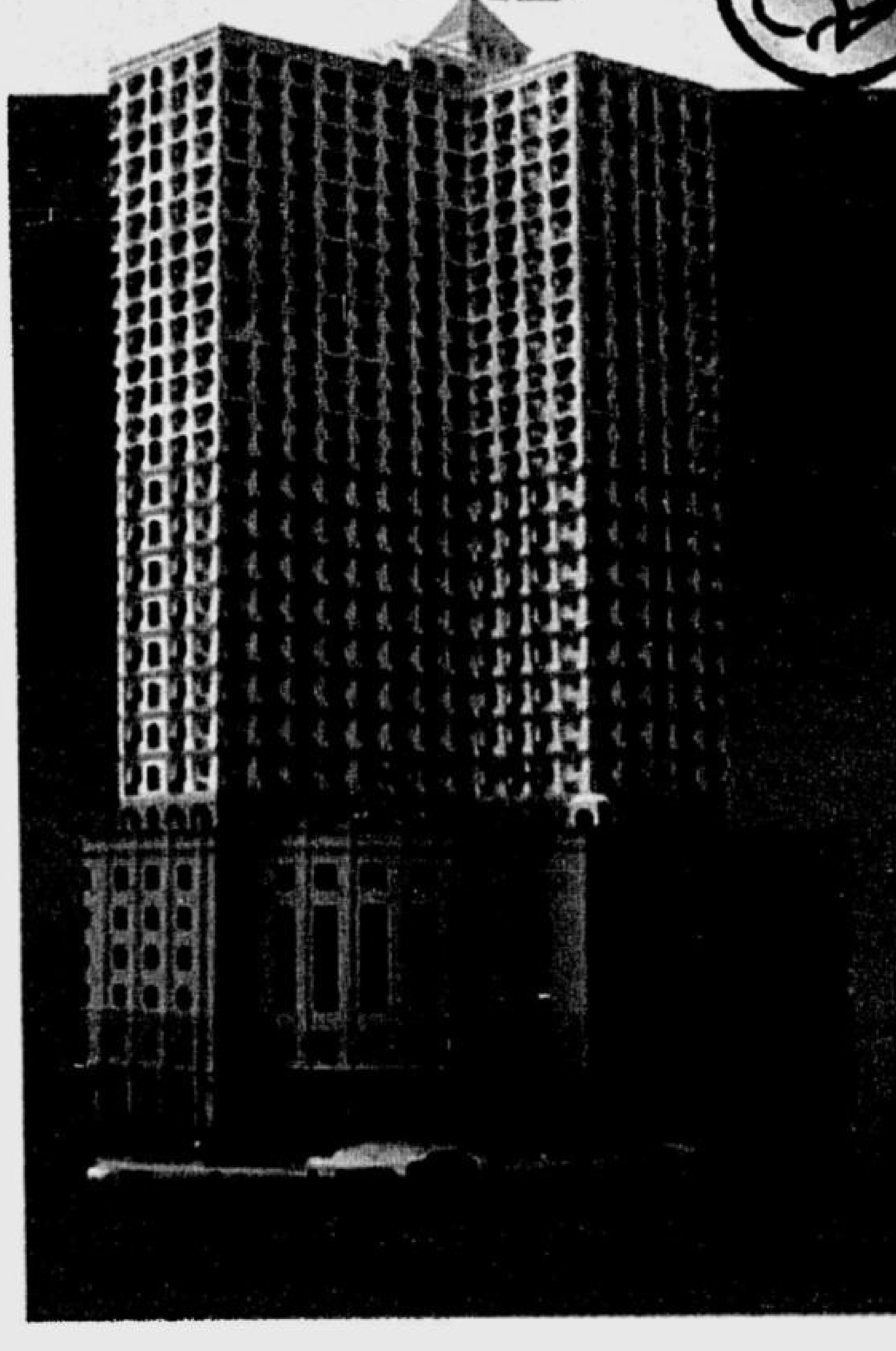

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Fortezza: Enter the world of a whole new lifestyle

CROWN Asia, one of the most diversified real estate developers in the country today, presents another masterplanned community exuding comfort and security. Discover Fortezza, the Crown of Laguna.

Out with Nature

As you arrive at the gates of Fortezza, you will notice right away the scenery that surrounds the property. It's all verdant from any angle as if somebody fenced in greenery and made a community out of it. Courteous security personnel man the entrance, giving residents full-time security for their comfort and peace of mind.

But the aesthetic features outside are just the beginning of Crown Asia's grander portrayal of what luxurious living is all about.

Inside, a fountain bathing in a placid stream welcomes you with coolness and serenity. The natural contour of the landscape is very much considered, preserving its natural beauty. Trees surrounding the perimeter stand tall caressing the southern breeze, while flora of different hues illustrates how modern living can harmoniously blend with nature.

By car or by foot, it's quite leisurely to go around the neighborhood. Fortezza features well-engineered paved roads, wide enough to make every drive trouble-free. Walkways are also in place for your afternoon stroll. At night, rekindle the romance as the ornamental streetlamps illuminate every step of the way.

Beauty from within

When it's time to snuggle up, all roads will lead you to your relaxing abode. Fortezza features Italian-inspired homes with distinctive floor plans. The living room radiates an aura of elegance with ample space to accommodate guests. At the adjacent area is the kitchen where you can roast, bake and fry all the sumptuous cuisine you can think of. It is good to know that the interiors of every house in Fortezza are strategically partitioned for better ventilation. And to let more air in, open the side door and relish another house feature – the lanai. Now, you will not only have more room at your dining area but also a soothing view of your garden.

Climb upstairs and get invited to the cozy atmosphere of the bedrooms. The second floor has its own toilet and bath so you don't have to go down anymore to wash up. And as the new dawn arises, wide windows greet the morning sun, waking you up to another day in Fortezza.

Homes to treasure

Four beautifully crafted designs comprise the shining glory of Crown Asia. Italian-inspired Fortezza homes reflect the five core values of Crown Asia: country-style homes that are ideal for families seeking comfort, serenity and security amid a lush-green environment. To sustain maximum satisfaction of residents, Fortezza homes are priced within reach of every budget-conscious family.

Just like the gems that make up a crown, Crown Asia has its own jewels to suit your lifestyle.

Jade

Indicates luck and prosperity for would-be dwellers. It features a living room, kitchen and two toilet and bath. This bachelor-style, two-bedroom unit is ideal for single adults in need of exclusivity and privacy or for young couples who are just starting their new life together. It has a floor area of 63 sq. m. and a minimum lot area of 110 sq. m.

EMERALD MODEL

Pearl

This model home is built for new families who yearn for cozy living. It features a spacious living room, dining and kitchen areas, two toilet and bath, three bedrooms and a lanai to savor the morning breeze. It has a floor area of 79 sq. m. and a minimum lot area of 110 sq. m.

Emerald

Ideal for large families, this three-bedroom house offers generous space for family interaction and for comfortable mobility. It has a floor area of 141 sq. m. and a minimum lot area of 132 sq. m. It features a large living room, dining room and kitchen area, three toilet and bath, one maid's room and a lanai.

Comprehensive amenities

This Italian-inspired community is a first in Laguna – a whole new lifestyle of comfort complete with well-integrated facilities and extra amenities such as clubhouse, basketball court, children's playground, landscape parks, picnic and promenade areas.

In search of a peaceful place to build a family, take the right path. Spend the rest of your life within the confines of a serene environment. Make Fortezza your new home.

While it depicts an environment different from an urban life, Fortezza is strategically located just right off the Cabuyao exit near business and leisure establishments, a mere 15-minute drive to Alabang. Brent and other exclusive schools are also nearby or easily accessible. And you need not travel far to unwind. Tagaytay and Enchanted Kingdom are just a few minutes away.

To know more about Fortezza, contact Crown Asia at tel. nos. 873-1614 or 871-3882 today.

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STRUCTURE & FINISHING: Concrete frame, steel beams & columns; Pre-painted roofing system; First class exterior/interior finish; CUSTOMIZED interior colors
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The Heritage Park: Memorialization at its finest

THE HERITAGE Park, Fort Bonifacio is a name that clearly stands out among its peers in the local memorial services industry today. It began as a vision more than a decade ago, to build a memorial park unlike any other in the Philippines and this part of the world. Today, this vision has been successfully realized through The Heritage Park.

Located alongside C-5, and a stone's throw away from the Global City and the Makati Commercial Center, The Heritage Park has become known among its peers as a source of first-rate products, services and world-class facilities.

Rosehills Memorial Management Phils. Inc. (RMMI), the local affiliate of Service Corporation International, a California-based company and currently the largest consolidator of cemeteries and funeral homes worldwide, manages and operates The Heritage Park. At the helm of RMMI is its chairman and president, US businessman Jack Kidwiler.

Opened to the public in March 2001, The Heritage Park forever altered the landscape of the Philippine memorial industry. Offering award-winning products and services, the Park quickly became the provider of choice for Filipino families seeking only the best in the memorialization of their departed loved ones.

But more than just being a provider of quality products and services, The Heritage Park has also introduced innovations fast becoming the norm in local memorial parks. One such innovation is the Park's Perpetual Care Fund or PCF. A mainstay for US memorial parks, The Heritage Park's PCF is essentially a trust fund designed specifically to answer the lifetime maintenance needs of the Park and its environs.

Upkeep, maintenance and repair of the facilities and memorial markers within the Park will never be a concern for The Heritage Park client. Families who visit the park are assured that their time here will be spent only on what matters most and that is, to pay their respects for their dearly departed loved ones.

Another feature of The Heritage Park that truly sets itself apart from the others is its Funeral Home and Crematory. Spacious, luxurious, and built more like a five-star hotel, the Park's Funeral Home was specifically designed to accommodate the discriminating needs of families. Open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, The Heritage Park and its Funeral Home and Crematory also offers a complete array of services and quality funeral products such as caskets from renowned US brands as Batesville, York, engineered wood caskets from the Diamond Casket collection and a wide selection of fine imported urns and registry books. All part of the packages of our Funeral Home and made available to families in their time of inconsolable loss.

World-class products coupled with first-rate services, The Heritage Park earns its place in the industry as the premier memorial services provider.

Stateland launches Gran Seville

GRAN Seville, a symbol of elegance and beauty inherent in Spanish-inspired architecture, was launched on May 28, 2005. Located in the bustling town of Cabuyao in Laguna, the blessing of the innovative model houses designed and constructed by leading real estate developer, Stateland Inc. was led by lawyer Romero Federico S. Quimbo, president and CEO of Home Development Mutual Fund and Laguna Gov. Teresita "Ningning" Lazaro.

At Gran Seville, Stateland offers its ValueHomes a selection of model houses aimed at meeting the need of middle-income families of affordable, yet excellently designed houses. Each ValueHomes unit contains intricately designed Spanish accents while offering comfort, function and space as reflected in the spacious rooms, high ceiling, lovely carvings, wide windows and staircase.

At Gran Seville, wide road networks and complete facilities and amenities for leisure, sports and other activities and gatherings, including a grand multi-purpose clubhouse, swimming pools complete with rooms and cabanas, basketball/volleyball court, children's playground with sturdy play equipment, landscaped parks with concrete benches, promenade and jogging path can be found. For more information on Gran Seville, call 244-6818 or 244-6877.

GRAN Seville, Stateland's Spanish-inspired latest property development in Cabuyao, Laguna, held its grand launch on May 28, 2005. Its model houses, ValueHomes, boast of Spanish architecture while offering the space, function and beauty ideal for today's Filipino family. Guests during the event are (from left to right) Home Development Mutual Fund president and CEO lawyer Romero Federico S. Quimbo, Rev. Fr. Cenon Dennis Santos, Gov. Teresita "Ningning" Lazaro, Stateland Inc.'s board chair lawyer Sabino Padilla Jr., Vice Gov. Edwin Olivarez, Stateland Inc. president Reynaldo T. Cometa, and Stateland Inc. EVP Elizabeth C. Chow.

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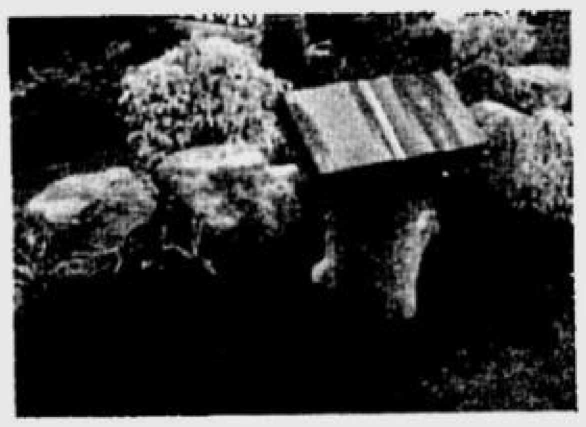

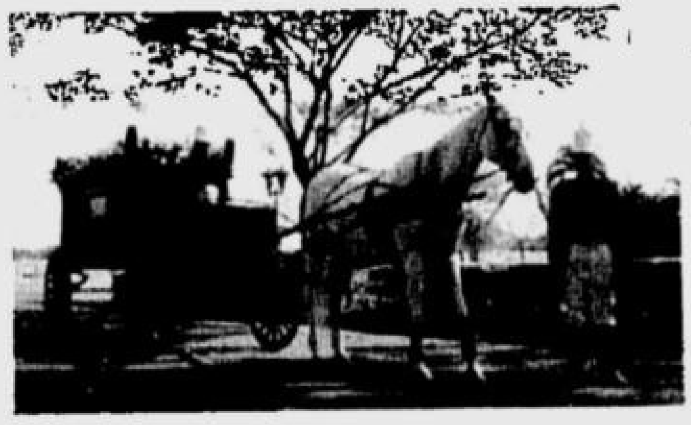

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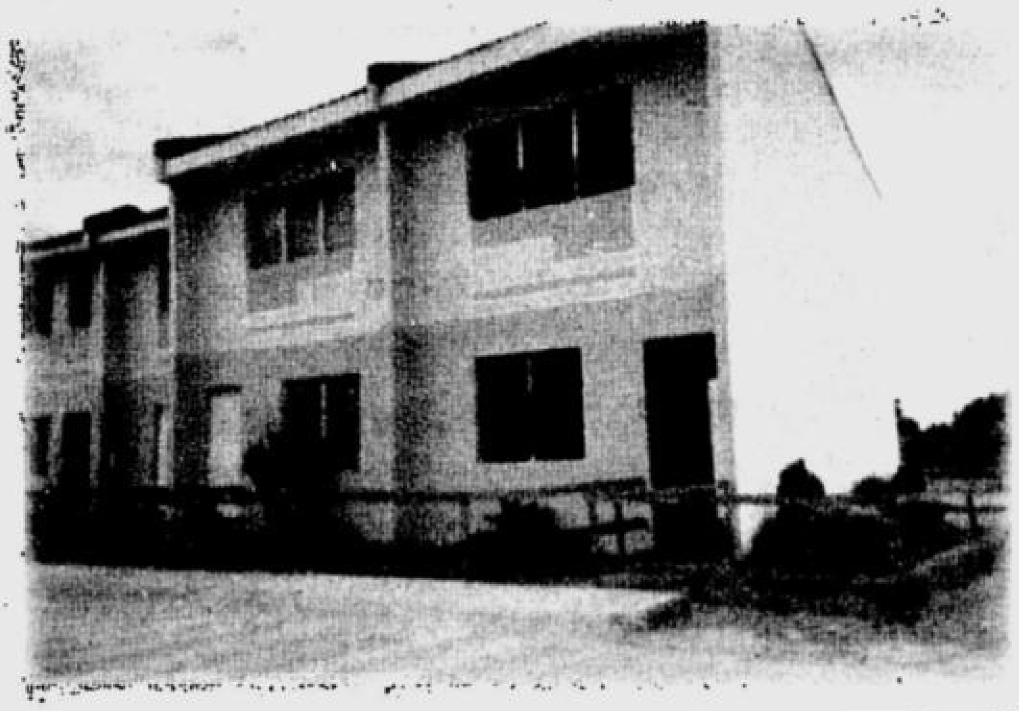

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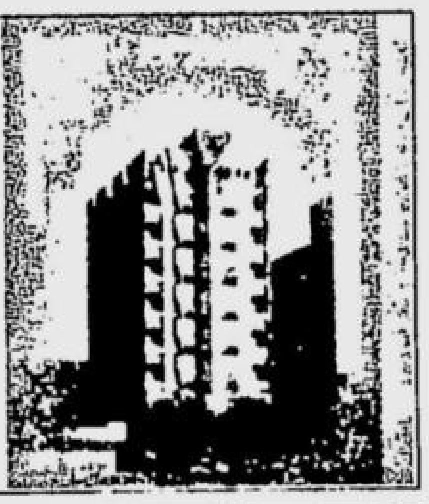

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